Daily Report

Latin America

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Azcona Willing To Accept Chosen Summit Venue

PA0412225989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2129 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 4 Dec (ACAN-EFE) - Honduran President Jose Azcona is willing to go to the country that is chosen by the other Central American presidents as the site of the upcoming area summit, but he has not yet confirmed his attendance.

According to a Guatemalan Government spokesman, the summit will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica from 10-12 December.

A few hours before the Guatemalan Government made that announcement, Azcona had told the press that he is willing to go to the country his Central American colleagues choose for the summit.

One of President Azcona's spokesmen told ACAN-EFE that if the other presidents agree to hold the summit in Costa Rica, Azcona "does not have any objections to going there, although he has not yet confirmed his attendance."

The summit should have been held in Nicaragua, but that country was ruled out after the suspension of relations between Managua and San Salvador.

According to the Guatemalan Government, the presidents will discuss the Salvadoran political situation and the demobilization of the contra movement stationed in Honduran territory. According to the agreements signed last August by the Central American presidents in Tela, Honduras, the deadline for the demobilization of the contras is tomorrow, 5 December.

Regarding the contra movement demobilization, Azcona said that "the agreements do not establish any deadline. The agreements talk about a precise deadline for the CIAV (International Commission of Support and Verification) activities." CIAV is the organization to which the anti-Sandinistas' "demobilization, repatriation, or relocation" was entrusted.

Azcona stressed: "Honduras did not promise to get the contras out of here by 5 December, because that would entail an action of force that we are not willing to undertake. We have said that repeatedly."

Azcona added that the arrival of the first members of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) in Tegucigalpa and the recent summit meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev "could contribute very much" to the improvement of the Central American situation.

According to Azcona, Bush and Gorbachev can "exert pressure on Nicaragua" so it will offer "the best possible conditions under which the contras could utilize the amnesty law in their country."

Group of Eight Ministers Meet in Buenos Aires

Argentina's Cavallo Opens Meeting

PY0412130589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1232 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM) — Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has said that "we are not only implementing a diplomacy of signing agreements; we also want the agreements to become realities." In this respect, he stated that "the resumption of the Buenos Aires-London flights are the practical implementation of the Madrid agreements."

Cavallo made these remarks just after 1000 at the opening of the Group of Eight meeting, which is taking place at the Alvear Hotel in this capital with the participation of Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli, Planning Secretary Moises Ikonicoff, Latin American Affairs Secretary Raul Carignano, and the foreign ministers of the Group of Eight.

Officials at Meeting Listed

PY0412173089 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Live relay by reporter Jorge Alvarado from the Alvear Hotel in Buenos Aires; all names and titles as heard]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Alvarado] The Group of Eight meeting, which has already started, will last all day today and tomorrow. Tomorrow's schedule begins with a working breakfast among the Group of Eight ministers attending the meeting and President Menem.

[Announcer] The Salvadoran conflict and Central American issues will probably be discussed in the meeting, right?

[Alvarado] Yes, probably, but this has not been confirmed. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] In addition to Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo, are Economy Minister Rapanelli and other Argentine officials also attending the meeting?

[Alvarado] Yes, Minister Rapanelli and Planning Secretary Moises Ikonicoff are taking part in the meeting, along with the following foreign officials: Brazil sent Foreign Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre, Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega, and Planning Minister Joao Batista de Abreu; Colombia did not send its foreign minister, but Jose Luis Ordonez, Foreign Ministry under secretary for economic affairs, Finance Minister Luis Fernando Alarcon, and Planning Minister Luis Flores are here; Mexico sent Foreign Minister Fernando Solana, Finance Deputy Minister Ortiz, and Planning Deputy Minister Garcia Alva. Also, Peru sent Foreign Minister Larco Cox, Economy Minister Cesar Vasquez, and Economic Affairs Deputy Secretary Garcia Belaunde; Venezuela sent Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart, Finance Minister Eglee Iturbe de Blanco, and Coordination and Planning Minister Miguel

Rodriguez; Uruguay sent Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano, Planning Minister Ariel Dabrieux, and Economic Affairs Director Bertet. [passage omitted]

Congress on Missing Detainees Held in Lima

PY0412205389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0456 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Lima, 28 Nov (EFE)— Delegates to a Latin American Congress that is being held in Lima on missing detainees in Latin America today expressed their "concern" that the largest number of detainees and missing people are to be found in the countries with democratic governments.

"We believe there are groups that are responsible for the disappearances. These groups are organized by the state itself to get rid of its political opponents, and these groups are equipped with all the resources required to engage in acts of impunity," said the congress spokesperson.

About 200 delegates from 12 Latin American countries and from European and U.S. human rights organizations are participating in the IX Congress of the Latin American Federation of Associations of Relatives of Missing Detainees that began today and will end on 30 November in Lima.

Sola Sierra, a member of the federation, has told EFE that "the meeting will focus on detentions and disappearances in Latin America, on the escalation of these practices, and on the impunity prevailing in all countries where this method of repression prevails."

Sierra, a Chilean citizen, said that this year the countries with the largest number of missing detainees are Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Peru, "where political violence has increased." However, she failed to mention the number of missing detainees.

Sierra, the Chilean delegate and president of the Chilean Association of Relatives of Missing People, said that there is no total number of missing people, but that more than 100,000 people have been reported missing throughout Latin America since 1981.

"This figure has increased at a frightening rate, and we regret that the largest numbers of cases have been reported in countries with democratic governments," she added.

She said that "neither under a dictatorship nor under a democracy" has the problem of missing detainees been resolved, because the government "always manages to talk its way out of investigating or punishing."

(The governments) argue that it is necessary to forget the past to build the present, and that it is necessary to reconcile if peace is to prevail. But how can there be peace and reconciliation while extremely serious events like the massive killing of human beings continue," she added. [quotation marks as received].

Sierra regretted that "there is very strong press censorship, and, what is worse, a self-imposed censorship [autocensura]" in the countries where most missing detainees have been reported.

These situations always lead us to believe that the state promotes this entire policy, that is, the use of state terrorism in countries where a state of law, courts, and established legal practices prevail, Sierra commented.

In today's session, a member of the Peruvian delegation said that over the past 10 years at least 4,000 people, mostly peasants and Andean community leaders, who were "arrested by government officials who later denied it," have disappeared.

The member of the Peruvian delegation said that, according to official figures, about 15,000 people have been killed as a result of political violence in Peru, and that a "negligible number" have been killed in clashes.

Cuba

Bush Repeats 'Trite Charges' at Malta Meeting

FL0412211789 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Malta summit has not raised any hopes for peace in Central America, at least for the near future. President Bush did not say anything new. Although he exempted the Soviet Union from any responsibility for what is happening in Central America, he repeated his trite charges against Cuba and Nicaragua. In Bush's opinion, Cuba and Nicaragua are exporting their respective revolutions and, therefore, they are responsible for the Central American situation. Thus, the United States will be satisfied only when that policy is discontinued and free elections are held in Nicaragua. In sum, the U.S. approach to the Central American conflict can be boiled down to the following solution: The Sandinists' departure from the government at all costs and the surrender of the Salvadoran insurgents, even through the use of arms.

As time elapses, the unrealistic U.S. position becomes increasingly dangerous. In fact, both the Nicaraguan Government and the leaders of the Salvadoran insurgents have run out of bargaining chips, because each proposal they made was literally sabotaged by the United States, despite the fact that in the case of Nicaragua the agreement was signed by the five Central American presidents.

The United States is totally responsible for the failure to demobilize the Nicaraguan contras, and Washington had a lot to do with the failure of the talks between the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas. Which way does Bush want to go? Will the U.S. President seek to continue to keep all Central American governments mere delegations subordinated to Washington? This course is in fact leading the Central American situation toward a labyrinth, which appears to have increasingly fewer exits.

Luanda Holds Ceremony for Dead Internationalists

FL0412171289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos today read a message of condolence during the funeral ceremony held prior to shipping the bodies of the internationalists who died in Angolan territory to Cuba .

During a brief news conference held at the end of the solemn ceremony, Dos Santos said: We know it is a difficult moment. We join in the pain and sadness of all Cuban families and people who lost loved ones in the defense of Angola's territorial integrity and independence.

For his part, Angolan Defense Minister Pedro Maria Tonha said: During these moments we remember, for their bravery, those who died in combat and who did not (?hesitate) to give their lives in the most brilliant internationalist gesture of our time. He also termed as invaluable the aid given by the Cuban Government and people for the independence of his country, and he gave a brief summary of the moments and historic conditions under which it was given. The defense minister added that Angola and Cuba constitute the great force of a new era in southwestern Africa. He recalled that thanks to our country's actions, UN Resolution 435 was implemented, through which Namibia will attain its independence next April.

For his part, Cuban Ambassador to Angola Martin Mora said: Battle after battle the Angolan Armed Forces, the Cuban internationalist troops, and the South-West African People's Organization achieved victory over the South African aggressors, who were forced to negotiate peace. Mora ended his speech by citing words spoken by Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. Raul once said that the only thing Cuba will take from Angola is the stromg friendship that unites her to that nation, the gratitude of its people, and the remains of our beloved brothers who died in the line of duty.

Angolan President Dos Santos To Arrive 5 Dec

FL0412130289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola and of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party, will arrive tomorrow in Cuba on an official, friendly, and work visit at the invitation of President Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

On 7 December, the Angolan leader will attend the funeral ceremonies for the Cuban internationalists who died in the defense of the territorial integrity of that African nation and other countries of the world. He will also hold official talks with Cuban leaders and he will tour educational and production centers. On Saturday, he will return to Angola.

The residents of Havana City, on behalf of our whole nation, will give the distinguished visitor and his delegation a warm welcome at the Jose Marti International Airport.

Ethiopia's Berhanu Bayeh To Arrive 5 December

FL0412133089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Berhanu Bayeh, vice president of the Council of State and member of the Politburo of the Workers' Party

of Ethiopia, will arrive tomorrow in Cuba on an official and friendly visit at the invitation of the Cuban party and government leadership.

The Ethiopian delegation will attend, on 7 December, the funeral ceremonies for the Cuban combatants who died on internationalist missions. Among the fallen combatants are those who gave their lives in defense of the territorial integrity and the independence of the Ethiopian nation.

During their visit, the distinguished guests will hold meetings with Cuban leaders and will visit centers of historical interest.

Raul Castro Presides Over FAR Day Ceremony

FL0412141389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], has briefly addressed the residents of [word indistinct] at the conclusion of the political and military ceremony marking the 33d anniversary of the Granma landing, FAR Day, and regional defense day.

[Begin Raul Castro recording] You are the foundation of the Armed Forces; you are the founders of our [word indistinct]. During the past 30 years, your behavior has earned you the respect of our whole nation, and especially of our Armed Forces. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Grenada

Prime Minister Blaize Appeals to Strikers

FL0412174889 Bridgetown CANA in English 1936 GMT 4 Dec 89

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 4, CANA—The Grenada Prime Minister, Herbert Blaize, was on Monday marking his fifth anniversary in power, grappling with a strike by civil servants angered by his government's inability to pay them an estimated EC25 million dollars in back pay for 1987-89.

In a last minute effort to avert the industrial action, Blaize went on radio last night and appealed to government employees to reconsider their decision taken on Friday to stay off the job until the money is paid. "I am appealing to you, public sector employees, to consider and reconsider your decision to strike," he said. "If public workers leave their jobs at this time, the country would be thrown into unnecessary chaos and disruption," he added. Government said last week it had failed to secure the funds needed to meet the retroactive payments.

Blaize, who has until December 28 to dissolve parliament and set a date for general elections, told government employees that striking would not solve the problem. "Walking off the job now would be counter-productive," he said.

Early indications were that most government ministries and departments were almost empty Monday, with the exception of a few permanent secretaries and senior executive officers.

Spokesman for the employees' negotiating team Lauret Clarkson said Sunday that the only civil servants who should report to work Monday were the media and health workers.

In his radio address, Blaize warned of the possibility of the strike causing chaos, tarnishing Grenada's image, and sending the wrong signals to the international community. Tourism would be hard hit, with cruise liners bypassing Grenada, he said. The workers' action, he added, would interfere with government's ability to meet recurrent expenditure, as well as prevent it from collecting revenue to pay salaries.

The strike was called after Blaize called in the three unions representing civil servants and told them that government had not received the money from "expected external sources" to pay them as promised on December 1. He promised to pay them within the next three months.

Blaize told the nation that government was working on "other arrangements" so as to be in a position to meet the backpay commitment. "My government has been working with you in good faith and is in no way reneging on its agreement with public workers unions", he remarked. "Let us together make the effort to bring about a smooth and peaceful settlement of this situation", he said in his message directed at the workers. "I am appealing to your good justice, of fair play and your patriotism... To continue working without any harmful interruption", he added.

Public Sector Unions Claim 'Success' 4 Dec

FL0412231389 Bridgetown CANA in English 2215 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 4, CANA— Grenada's three public sector unions claimed success Monday [4 December] in their strike to protest the government's inability to meet an estimated EC 25 million dollar back pay claim by civil servants.

Executive-Secretary of the Technical and Allied Workers Union (TAWU) Chester Humprey dubbed the industrial action as "completely successful." Humphrey told CANA during the afternoon: "We are still out in the field surveying the situation, but based on preliminary reports, we are over 90 percent successful," he said. "From the operational part of government, everything literally has come to a standstill," he added.

Checks by CANA itself indicated that most government departments and ministries were virtually empty of staff, except for a few permanent secretaries and senior executive officers.

The Herbert Blaize administration had promised to pay the workers the money on Friday, but one day earlier notified them that it had not yet received the funds expected from "external sources" to meet the bill.

Humphrey regarded the opening of those offices to the public as merely "symbolic." "No activities are taking place there," he remarked. Humphrey also said that the unions are expecting a "massive turn-out" for tomorrow's planned march and picketing of the weekly cabinet meeting. He said that during the picketing a delegation would seek to present to government a petition reiterating "our disgust at government's conduct in the matter."

TAWU, along with the Public Workers Union (PAU), and the Grenada Union of Teachers (GUT) are the bargaining agents for the estimated 7,000 civil servants on the island.

Haiti

Periodical Criticizes Ambassadors Adams, McKinley

FL0412222389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Press Review]

[Excerpt] In the headline news this week was the statement made by the U.S. ambassador, Alvin Adams, upon his arrival in Port-au-Prince last week and General Avril's reaction of displeasure.

LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR says that, even though one might have small personal grievances against Gen Avril, the general deserves congratulations for the slap in the face he administered to the ambassador by deciding to postpone until an unspecified date the ceremony of presentation of credentials. Alvin Adams trampled the most elementary principles of diplomatic protocol. As an ambassador-designate, he should have kept his mouth shut until the Haitian Government officially accepted him as U.S. ambassador to Haiti. The ambassador's haughty statement on Haitian politics was not an error, but intentional.

LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR asks what difference there is between the behavior of the Panamanian ambassador that the government recently expelled and the behavior of the new U.S. ambassador.

The periodical adds: Who would have imagined, 3 years ago, that Ambassador McKinley would leave Haiti the way he did—as a seller of dollars who was, at the same time, secretly taking money from Haitian leaders to forward favorable reports to the U.S. Government on the situation in Haiti, the way people here (?wanted). [passage omitted]

Mexican Government Seeks Foodstuffs Agreement

FL0412210789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] The Mexican Government has officially asked Haiti to sell it foodstuffs, especially corn. The Haitian Ministry of Agriculture has already set up a national project to produce large quantities of corn in Haiti. The ministry is studying the possibility of selling the Mexican Government 100,000 tonnes of corn for $40 million. The first delivery is to be made as soon as the agreement between the Mexican Government and the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture is signed.

This information comes from the Ministry of Agriculture. Corn production has increased considerably in Haiti. The livestock industry has stopped importing corn.

Only the Les Cayes and Les Anglais areas, through the federation of agricultural cooperatives, are going to (?supply) the corn.

The Ministry of Agriculture believes it can satisfy the Mexican Government's demand and has already begun to implement measures.

CEP Announces December Schedule, Supervisors

FL0412224389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] The Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] has issued several press releases on its activities for the month of December. The council says it has a full calendar for the entire month. Work hours are 0830 to 1700, Monday through Friday, and 0830 to 1200 on Saturday.

CEP activities for the month of December include (? collecting suggestions regarding) the draft electoral law; submitting the electoral law to the executive; appointing people to Communal Electoral Offices [BEC], Departmental Electoral Offices [BED], Local Electoral Offices [BEL], and other various duties. The CEP has also published a list of BED supervisors for the different parts of Haiti. The BED's for the South, the Grande Anse, the Southeast, Leogane, Grand Goave, and Petit Goave, will be supervised by Dr Jacques J Jovin, Jean Gerard Pierre, and Dr Rony Durand. The BED's for the West and the Central Plateau will be supervised by Dr Louis Antoine Auguste, Max Lelio Joseph, and Dr Joseph Lesperance. The BED's for the Artibonite, the North, the Northeast, and the Northwest will be supervised by the Reverend Pauris Jean-Baptiste, notary Archange Leon, and attorney Gabriel H Augustin.

Attorney Gabriel H Augustin will be responsible for supervising electoral litigation.

Mr Jean Gerard Pierre and Reverend Pauris Jean-Baptiste will be in charge of civic education and information.

Former Finance Minster Requests End to Injustice

FL0512010589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Guy Bauduy [finance minister under Jean Claude Duvalier], who was arrested, mistreated, and then released in eastern Haiti, asks the government and especially the minister of justice to take all necessary measures to guarantee the rights of the defenseless poor throughout Haiti.

In a letter to members of the military government and the minister of justice, Mr Bauduy says he began a hunger strike on 22 November, the day he was illegally arrested in Mare Rouge, 2d communal section of Bois d'Orme, Anse-a-Pitre commune, and jailed in Thiotte. He said he decided at the time to continue his strike until he obtains satisfaction for the rural population of southeastern Haiti. He says he is this population's spokesman on a number of matters. Bauduy says he hopes the military government will consider his requests soon.

Bauduy asks the government to issue a decree to put an end to a number of illegal and arbitrary practices (?and) arrests that occur on the pretext of communist activities. He asks that the decree forbid all kinds of repression (?and) forbid agents in authority from manhandling people regardless of the reason for their arrest. This decree should also provide for the application of sanctions against those responsible for these kinds of abuses. Bauduy says that copies of this decree, in both French and Creole, should be posted at all military barracks, police posts and outposts, prisons, courts, city halls, prefectures, and civil registry offices throughout Haiti.

Bauduy also expresses his solidarity with Etienne Marineau, Evans Paul, and Jean Auguste Mesyeux, and asks that they be released. He also asks that an end be put to all the vile persecution of Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, the Papaye Peasants Movement, and everyone else being sought in Haiti.

He calls for the government to reinstate Article 42.3 of the Constitution. He asks the Ministry of Justice to set up legal clinics in the three administrative districts of the Department of the Southeast to provide the rural population with legal assistance, especially with land problems. Bauduy calls for the Ministry of Justice to open an investigation on human rights violations, dishonest transactions, abuses of power, and the selling of justice throughout the Department of the Southeast. He says justice is being bought and that all the crooked wheeling and dealing by members of the judiciary that is done to take money, land, or other possessions away from the poor peasants must stop. These acts are being performed by a group of bandits who are supposed to be men of law, but who in reality constitute a real judiciary mafia, organizing and enriching themselves at the peasants' expense.

In his letter, Bauduy addresses the minister of justice and says that if the minister does not have enough money to finance these things Bauduy is asking, the minister should confer with Finance Ministry authorities—including the finance minister himself—and ask for a list of all the people who owe the National Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank [BNDAI] money. BNDAI no longer exists. All the people who owed it money, however, are still here, and they are capable of paying their debts. Among them are high-ranking—even extremely high-ranking—members of the Armed Forces; the Public Prosecutor; members of the Duvalier and Bennett families; and former ministers, among them Rony Gilot; as well as other people and companies from the private sector who used to help the Duvalier regime stay in power in Haiti. All these people combined owe BNDAI some 33 million gourdes. This money could help the Ministry of Justice reestablish justice in Haiti, for it is practically nonexistent in Haiti today, says Bauduy. [passage omitted]

Costa Rica

Spokesman Denies Arias Involvement in Contra Aid

PA0512001489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2157 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 4 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—The Costa Rican Government is awaiting the return of pilot Ney Escobar Alfaro, who was arrested in Panama after having escaped unharmed from a helicopter accident on Friday while accompanied by U.S. citizen Charles Stockwell, who died in the mishap.

Information Minister Jorge Urbina told ACAN-EFE that no one is going to believe the progovernment newspaper report which seeks to implicate President Oscar Arias in actions aiding the "contras" of Nicaragua.

According to the Panamanian newspaper, Escobar is accused of aiding the "contras" of Nicaragua with the support of the U.S. Army South, based in Panama, and with the knowledge of the Costa Rican authorities.

Furthermore, Panama has not filed any official charge against the pilot, a ranking officer of the Costa Rican Civil Guard, or against the authorities of Costa Rica, Urbina stated.

He noted that "Central America and the world are witness to efforts by Arias for almost 4 years toward achieving peace in the region."

Panama is aware of "the forceful action" of the government leader in preventing Panamanian opposition from using Costa Rican territory to operate against the Panamanian regime, Urbina stated. In fact, Panama's main opposition leaders have had to leave Costa Rican territory because they have not found support for their objectives.

Urbina referred to "the precedent" of the campaign against President Arias in Panama, and noted several cases of "gross attacks" by its progovernment newspapers.

The official spokesman voiced the president's hope that the Panamanian Government will consider the nature of the accident and order the release of Escobar, "considering that the accident of the aircraft he was piloting was not politically linked."

El Salvador

Cristiani To Confirm Participation in Summit

PA0512042589 Paris AFP in Spanish 0345 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 4 Dec (AFP)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani tonight confirmed that he will attend the special summit of Central American presidents in Costa Rica on 10-11 December. Cristiani said over radio and television that he will attend the summit "in defense of the Salvadoran people" and to tell Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega that "under no circumstances is his sending the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) puppets to kill Salvadorans justified."

After accusing Nicaragua of sending weapons to the Salvadoran guerrillas, who began a heavy military offensive on 11 November, Cristiani announced on 26 November that he was suspending all relations with Nicaragua and that he would not attend the summit scheduled to be held in Managua on 8-9 December.

The crisis between those two countries and the increase in the tensions between Nicaragua and Honduras over the permanence of the contras in Honduras seriously threatens the progress of the Central American peace process the five countries of the region began 3 years ago.

Cristiani said today that El Salvador "has always been willing to find a solution through peaceful means" but alluding to Nicaragua, he added that "those who seek to sign commitments with the rest of the presidents should also fulfill them."

Meanwhile, Honduran President Jose Azcona said today in Tegucigalpa that he is willing to attend the summit. However, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal said in his country that El Salvador and Honduras had not officially confirmed their attendance.

According to Cristiani, he will confirm his attendance on 5 December.

Madrigal predicted that the summit "will not be easy" because of the topics that will be discussed and because the agenda will surely include the alleged Nicaraguan assistance to the FMLN and the demobilization of the contras as requested by Nicaragua.

However, the agenda is being processed and although Costa Rica offered to host the meeting, "it is not interested in forcing the issue," he emphasized.

Madrigal added that what interests Costa Rica is to serve as a "bridge" for solving the conflict between Nicaragua and El Salvador, and finding some formula so that the Salvadoran and Nicaraguan Governments can establish a dialogue with the rebels.

He added that it is possible that the foreign ministers of the five countries will meet in San Jose on the eve of the long-awaited meeting to prepare for it.

The Costa Rican foreign minister reported that they are also considering the possibility of inviting foreign ministers from other Latin American countries, as well as representatives of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA).

Army Reports 4,834 Casualties in FMLN Attack

PA0512032389 Paris AFP in Spanish 2129 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador—The guerrilla attack launched on 11 November has inflicted 4,834 casualties on the Salvadoran troops and guerrillas, according to a report issued today by the government Armed Forces.

The report notes that, in the last 24 days, 1,853 Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas and 457 soldiers have been killed, while 1,183 rebels and 1,341 soldiers have been wounded.

Over the same period, the military report adds, the Army seized 900 rifles of various types and calibers, including 300 AK-47's and Dragonovs, 140 grenade launchers, and abundant material to make explosives.

Military sources have reported that FMLN groups clashed with Army troops near Zacatecoluca, a department capital located 54 km south of San Salvador. They said that the clashes lasted several hours and that the Air Force moved in to rout the guerrillas.

Meanwhile, over its clandestine radio the FMLN claimed credit for the destruction of an armored vehicle in El Puente Jurisdiction of San Miguel Department in the eastern part of the country. However, this report has not been confirmed by the government.

FMLN Reports Army Attrition, Casualties

PA0512030189 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0017 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] reports that after an offensive of 23 days we have inflicted 1,860 casualties on the Armed Forces. It is estimated that the Armed Forces have sustained 465 dead and 1,395 wounded.

In antiaircraft combat, 23 aircraft have been either damaged or destroyed. These include one A-37 Dragonfly airplane downed in the city of San Miguel. Twenty-five armored and transportation vehicles were destroyed. The number of seized weapons is as follows: 167 rifles and 34 support weapons, which include machine guns, rocket launchers, and grenade launchers. Approximately 95,000 rifle rounds have been seized.

The attrition among the enemy's forces, including a considerable number of officers, noncommissioned officers, and pilots, has begun to lead to desertions, subordination, and loss of fighting morale among the officers and troops. This has been shown during the FMLN actions in the Escalon neighborhood against the elite Ramon Belloso and Atlacatl Battalions, whose units refused to advance and on other occasions did not fire at our columns or disobeyed orders to surround our positions. Cristiani's call to the reserve troops, the suspension of leave in the Army, and the disproportionate mobilization of troops from the departments to the capital show that as a result of our actions, the Armed Forces' High Command has been unable to design a balanced use of its forces for a strategic defense. Future battles in the cities, roads, and rural areas will intensify our offensive against fascism, a fascism showing signs of weakness in its urban defensive positions, where the people are increasing their victories.

Official Reports Say Rebels Repulsed at Usulutan

PA0412160189 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1323 GMT4 Dec 89

[Text] Official sources have reported that troops from the the 6th Infantry Brigade and the Atonal Battalion have engaged in heavy fighting with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorist criminals on three occasions as the latter have tried to enter the city of Usulutan.

Spokesmen for the Atonal Battalion have asserted that their battalion inflicted a large number of casualties on the communist murderers and seized Soviet weapons during the latest fighting. Meanwhile, troops of the Leon Battalion reported that they killed two terrorist criminals during a skirmish in Las Delicias, San Miguel Jurisdiction. The sources said that the soldiers seized one 60 mm mortar, one grenade of the type launched with catapults, and other war supplies. They added that the troops found 1 M-16 rifle, 1,500 rounds of ammunition, and various types of explosives abandoned in (El Tular) Village, also in San Miguel.

The Salvadoran people congratulate the brave Armed Forces soldiers and urge them to continue their struggle against the FMLN's murderous terrorists.

Government Authorizes Airing of Radio Newscasts

PA0412211489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2007 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 4 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Salvadoran Government authorized the radio stations to begin airing newscasts that had been suspended since the guerrilla offensive was unleashed on 11 November.

Mauricio Sandoval, in charge of the government Communications Secretariat, said that "the radio newscasts are free," but warned that they must "consider the state of siege" that has existed since 12 November.

The ranking government official added that radio newscasts "will be subject to requests for revision of their material."

Two of the leading radio stations of the country, YSU and YSKL, began to air their own reports. Radio Sonora will begin to air its own newscasts tomorrow.

Ever since the guerrilla offensive began, all the radio stations have been subject to censorship, likewise the television channels and newspapers, which could only

publish reports stemming from the so-called "radio network" programmed by the government.

Sandoval said that this "network" will be maintained and that all the radio stations must join it twice a day to air the newscast prepared by the government and the Armed Forces General Staff.

"We trust that they (the directors of the newscasts) have joined the national unity and the government's desire for peace," Sandoval stated. The director of one of the newscasts authorized to be aired again told ACAN-EFE that the government had requested "prudence" and had warned them not to be "alarmist."

The directors of the newscasts have been instructed not to publish anything that goes against the government provisions or that can be interpreted as favoring the guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Report Blames Armed Forces for Priests' Murder

PA0412201289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1742 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 4 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—According to the conclusion reached by a report drafted by the San Salvador Archbishopric's Legal Assistance Office, "members of the Armed Forces" killed the six Jesuits and two women, in San Salvador on 16 November.

The report, the last part of which was disclosed today, concludes that "all evidence, clues, and related information establishes that the murderers were members of the Armed Forces."

The Legal Assistance Office bases its report on the autopsies, crime site inspection, statements by several witnesses, and ballistics tests.

This organization acted at the requests of the Jesuits and on the presumption of San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, who said the day after the massacre that military men were involved.

During the early hours of dawn on 16 November, while a rigorous curfew was in effect, a group of uniformed men killed the Jesuits and two women at their residence.

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani announced the opening of an investigation and invited experts from the United States, Spain, the UK, and France to take part.

According to the Legal Assistance Office, the assassins were at the place of the murder "for not less than 1 hour," during which they "fired extensively," and set off "explosive devices."

This, together with "the obvious and provable militarization of the area," forces the Legal Assistance Office to rule out that the murderers could have been members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), as some sectors of the Salvadoran Government have insinuated.

The report says: "The Armed Forces did not react as it should, had it been the FMLN, which indicates knowledge of the operation by military troops assigned to give security to the General Staff," near the residence.

The Legal Assistance Office also highlights that 3 days prior to the massacre "properly uniformed members of the national Army specifically searched these premises (the residence)."

Jesuits Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the Central American University; Ignacio Martin Baro; Segundo Montes; Armando Lopez; Juan Ramon Moreno; Joaquin Lopez y Lopez; as well as Elba Ramos and her daughter Celina, aged 15, were shot to death.

Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador said yesterday that "the names of some of the assassins" are already known, and added that "if the Salvadoran Government wants to go all the way in the investigation, they can."

Rosa Chavez, however, did not mention any of the names of the alleged criminals.

Venceremos Sees Regime, Bush Under Fire

PA0312183589 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1356 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Unattributed commentary: "The 10 Days That Convinced the World"]

[Text] Over the past 10 years, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has contended that the so-called low-intensity war, which was launched during the Reagan administration, was in no way intended to establish democracy in El Salvador but, on the contrary, to establish a new kind of military dictatorship with a civilian facade and semblances of democracy.

The first 10 days of the national offensive against the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] regime and La Tandona [name given to the 1966 gradutes of Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy] were enough to convince the world that we were right. It took 10 years to understand this, but 10 days of an offensive were enough to convince the world. During those 10 days, Cristiani took off his disguise as an honest and educated businessman, put on the blood-splattered clothes of a heartless butcher bombing civilian districts, and, according to the so-called Yakharta Plan [not further identified], murdered the Jesuit priests and captured and executed dozens of Salvadorans based on simple suspicion.

During those days, Cristiani began persecuting the church, unions, groups, universities, political parties, and further gagged and persecuted independent journalists. With Bush's blessing, Cristiani and ARENA dreamed that they would have an additional 50 years of legitimacy to cover up their death squads. One of the main strategic successes in the offensive has been the smashing of ARENA's alleged legitimacy and democratic image. The international isolation and the absence

of economic, political, and diplomatic support Cristiani is facing is taking on a proportion no one could have imagined the day before 11 November, when we began our offensive.

An unprecedented step has been taken at the United Nations. A resolution has been approved pointing out the violation of human rights by the Cristiani regime. It points out the political murders, the tortures, the disappearances, the bombings, and the impunity of the murderers in the cases of Msgr Romero and the Jesuit priests. The resolution was approved by 96 countries; 34 countries abstained and 1 voted against. This was the vote of the murderers, of the representatives of the Cristiani administration in the United Nations.

In the most recent meetings of the United Nations and the Organization of American States, at which Cristiani tried to divert attention toward Nicaragua, his isolation and lack of credibility became evident; he became the accused rather than accuser. The Cristiani administration has been equally condemned by the EEC—the the so-called Group of 12—something unprecedented in that international forum. Spain suspended economic aid to Cristiani until the 40 soldiers and officers who ordered and carried out the execution of the Jesuit priests are punished. West Germany will do the same with its substantial assistance to the ARENA regime, and the possibility that other countries will cut off aid to the ARENA regime is not being ruled out.

Moreover, the conservative Inter-American Press Association has condemned Cristiani because of the censorship, the disinformation network and the persecution against local and foreign journalists. The Federation of Latin American Journalists has just done the same. The Group of Eight, which is the most influential Latin American group, has criticized Cristiani's rejection of a cease-fire, which was requested by the international community and included by the FMLN in its latest political proposal. In addition, the Group of Eight has described Cristiani's rejection of the Central American presidents meeting, scheduled for Managua, as a political outburst.

Cristiani's situation in the United States is becoming dramatic. The bipartisan consensus that supported military aid has broken up. The U.S. press is increasingly critical of the Salvadoran Government and Armed Forces. Protest demonstrations are multiplying. Personalities like Jesse Jackson are demanding and end to aid for Cristiani. To this must be added the recent statement, in similar terms, of the bishops of all U.S. churches. The scenes of the U.S. personnel leaving San Salvador have been viewed as the beginning of the end of Cristiani's regime and it is felt that the time has come for a serious review of president Bush's foreign policy, which has cost $4 billion to that country's treasury and 70,000 deaths to the Salvadoran people.

Serious questions are being raised now about Bush's foreign policy. The image of a terrorist, fanatical group that some powerful U.S. sectors had about the FMLN has been dispelled in the United States by the evacuation of foreign personnel as well as the developments at the Sheraton Hotel, most recently in Escalon. The U.S. press has begun talking about an FMLN showing statesmanship in its actions and as a rational and sensible political and military force. It is being seen as a force with which relations of equality and respect can be established for finding political solutions avoiding regionalization and deepening of the conflict.

To achieve democratization, enforce respect for human rights, the fascist nature of the Cristiani regime had to be exposed, and we have succeeded. This is the first important achievement, adding to the many gains during the nationwide offensive for peace against those who have turned war into a business. We achieved in 10 days what the world took 10 years to understand. Salvadorans, we are stronger now than ever. The offensive continues building victory.

FMLN Criticizes Official News Conference

PA0512041989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1402 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Colonel Carlos Armando Aviles, COPREFA [Armed Forces Press Committee] chief and Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Valdivieso granted a news conference in the United States, in which Col Aviles acted as if he was the deputy foreign minister and Valdivieso acted as if he was a gorilla.

A journalist who identified himself as Jean Pierre of INN [Independant Network News], asked them if they had tried to obtain the fingerprints of the people who entered the university on the night of the killings to help with the investigation. It was assumed that they would have that information by now. Valdivieso replied that he had no information on that topic. What he meant was that he did not know anything. He said again that he had no information on the topic, but he did know that there were three letters sent by President Cristiani to the governments of Canada, the UK, and Spain which requested experts, aid, and anything that could be useful. He added that Canada also offered its services at an OAS meeting. He also said he was sure that the government would be more than happy to respond positively to the offer.

In other words, he did not answer the question. A journalist asked if the murderers left any fingerprints, and Valdivieso answered by changing the subject altogether. When asked if the murders could be identified from their fingerprints, he replied by saying that he has three letters from Canada, the UK, and Spain offering experts.

Neither one answered any of the questions. This means that before the U.S. press, they are the murderers. Col Aviles and Valdivieso have admitted their guilt.

We believe that the members of the press who are not aware of this interview should look for it and analyze it in depth. We urge national and international journalists to obtain a translation of this news conference and analyze it.

We also urge the diplomatic corps of the international community to carefuly analyze this news conference in the United States because it is very interesting. It was very interesting because it was a confession by the murderers of the Jesuit priests. We urge the international community to study this news conference very carefully.

Venceremos on 'Incapacities' of Colonel Ponce

PA0412034389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0025 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The political-military offensive of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has pointed out the personal incapacity of Colonel Ponce. Everyone agrees the general staff has reacted with a slow, dull, and incoherent military answer to each guerrilla action. Forty-eight hours prior to the offensive, Ponce disclosed our plans, yet he was incapable of halting them. In spite of the most overwhelming concentration of forces in the capital city, our units maintain a strategic siege. They penetrate, move, humiliate, mock, even touch Ponce's face, then they leave strategic areas in San Salvador, and El Cuico [The Pig] Ponce is not able to stop them.

However, we would not be just if we did not recognize in Col Ponce the strategic contribution he has made to the art of war. Ponce has invented the strategy of the big uproar [la buruca]. In other words, he brings in many battalions, but it is an illogical, incoherent, useless concentration of troops. He brings them in from Chalatenango, San Vicente, Sonsonate, and other places in the country. The greater the number of battalions concentrated in the capital city, the greater are the military defeats of the colonel with virgin boots.

The strategy of the big uproar is the easiest way for those who are incapable and cowardly, who think that if they surround their offices with battalions and armored vehicles they will protect themselves and be able to prevent the imminent collapse. However, with or without a big uproar, Ponce is walking a tightrope. And the question is: Who will pull him down first? His own comrades-in-arms from La Tandona [reference to the 1966 graduating class of the Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy] who are reprimanding him for his incapacities, or the people's whirlpool that is advancing steadily toward those who have made the war their own business?

Commentary Argues Rebel Right To Obtain Weapons

PA0412013889 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1447 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Station commentary: "Against Genocide, Our Legitimate Right To Arm Ourselves"]

[Text] The escalation of the conflict in our country has become a subject for discussion not only in El Salvador but in the whole world. Some feel that the level to which the Cristiani regime has increased the use of its aircraft in bombing the poor neighborhoods in San Salvador and San Miguel is inadmissible, and others feel the same way about the likely use of antiaircraft weapons against these same aircraft.

Scenes of the war's escalation through bombing densely populated urban areas surprised and angered the civilized world. Unfortunately, the world had to wait for genocide to occur for reflection, condemnation, and actions against the fascists to occur. In 1987 the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] had made an appeal to stop this demented escalation and had proposed curbs on the use of planes, helicopters, and mines. But, as is known far from listening to the call for common sense, the regime further escalated use of its aircraft, turning them into instruments of genocide.

The U.S. Government's responsibility in this cannot be denied. In a bid to overthrow the legitimate Nicaraguan Government, the past Reagan administration and George Bush's current administration created and armed the mercenary contra army, thus turning Central America into a huge, uncontrollable, and irresponsible market for weapons of all kinds, including surface-to-air missiles. In this arms race, the Costa Rican and Salvadoran Governments submissively participated as accomplices. Countless cargo planes left Ilopango Airport with armaments for the contras.

The case of Eugene Hasenfus presented the evidence to the world. In the hands of the contra mercenaries, armaments were on the market to anybody at any price—to drug traffickers, criminal gangs, and guerrilla forces on the continent.

However, with over $4 billion the U.S. Government has financed escalation of the war in El Salvador, tripling the size of the army, supplying it with the most modern weapons while always proclaiming the national security doctrine of arming the contras and supporting the Salvadoran Army.

Even though the world's disarmament and detente process is making headway and crumbling walls and democratization are realities detracting from the legality of and denying from its roots this national security doctrine. Because of this doctrine the United States has supplied weapons, intervened in Central America, and shamefully turned Honduras into an aircraft carrier, Nicaragua into a military target, and El Salvador into a bloody battlefield.

What can we Salvadorans do in view of so much irrationality and intransigence? We have undeniably made efforts to bring a negotiated political end to the conflict to save the people's blood, but the fascists have expanded and complicated the situation. They have

overly complicated the situation. Our gestures of goodwill were construed as weakness and, far from corresponding to our gestures, the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and La Tandona fascists increased the repression, the captures, and the terror. Far from understanding and taking the path of rationality and good judgment, the United States increased military aid.

Eventually, we told the U.S. Congress that this was the wrong signal for the fascists, and that if they thought backing ARENA was a message for moderation they made a mistake, because it was giving weapons and support to criminals. And this was so. A single bomb killed union members in a macabre response to our readiness to engage in dialogue. The massacre of the Jesuit priests must be an appeal to the world conscience and particularly a clarion call to men in positions of responsibility in the United States, because this reveals to them, without any disguises, whom they have armed, to whom they are giving millions of dollars, and just whom they are supporting in El Salvador.

We have always said, and must repeat it in these crucial times: The escalation of the conflict, arms buildup, and the level of genocide that has been reached in El Salvador oblige us, commit us, and give us a legitimate right to obtain weapons from wherever necessary, a right to obtain the types of weapons we deem necessary, and a right to introduce them into our country in any way necessary for them to be in the hands of the people.

FMLN Sabotages Coffee Plant Near Santa Ana

PA0512040089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0020 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] We now have a report from Santa Ana, where an important act of sabotage was staged against the El Sauce coffee processing plant. The report states that at 0100 on 4 December, guerrilla units began a sabotage operation against the El Sauce coffee processing plant, which is owned by the oligarchic Meza Ayau family and is located 1 km from the city of Santa Ana. They burned 500,000 sacks of coffee. They also sabotaged 1 drying machine, 3 classifying machines, 15 dump trucks, and 4 trucks. All the installations were burned. They also held a 90-minute meeting with the workers to explain the advance of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front offensive, calling on them to join the people's struggle.

This important sabotage operation just 1 km from the city of Santa Ana refutes President Cristiani's announcement that the Armed Forces will protect the coffee-growing oligarchy.

* FMLN, Army Said To Conscript Students

32480228 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 25 Oct 89 p 3

[Text] Residents in various parts of Usulutan are very alarmed by the unleashing of a conscription campaign by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and the Army which are taking young students who have begun their year-end vacations.

Parents said today, "We are concerned about the fate of our children who are minors, because if the guerrillas don't conscript them, the Armed Forces do." They added that, in accordance with the law, the young men who have been detained are exempt from military service; nevertheless, they said, their status as students has not been respected.

They say the FMLN has taken 80 young people from El Zapote, San Francisco, and Delicias in Berlin, while the Civil Defense has conscripted students from Santiago de Maria and other areas.

Guerrillas reportedly also continue to demand "war taxes" from farmers who have been told they must pay the taxes in the form of agricultural products. The residents are very concerned about this entire situation.

FMLN Communique Warns Crop Dusting Planes

PA0512031589 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0030 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in El Salvador on 4 December]

[Text] The Armed Forces have been using civilian crop dusting planes for military reconnaissance flights in eastern El Salvador. We warn the owners of light planes that they should refrain from flying their aircraft because they will be the target of our antiaircraft units.

[Signed] Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front
El Salvador, 4 December 1989

Canal Doce Television Backs Government

PA0412042389 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 29 Nov 89 p 20

[Paid San Salvador Canal Doce Television advertisement]

[Text] Dear television viewers:

When we decided to suspend the "Up to Date" newscast on 22 November, we stated that we were making this decision out of self-respect and to maintain our professional ethics. We stated that giving honest and truthful information for 4 years had placed us in the wonderful position of having the trust of the Salvadoran people, to whom we are committed and for whom we work tirelessly.

This decision—made at a critical moment—was interpreted in many ways and according to the receivers' political and ideological interests.

Some persons—they were the minority—said that our decision played along with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. However, most persons understood our action.

We want to express our thanks for the thousands of letters, telegrams, telephone calls, and personal visits expressing support and urging us to broadcast our newscast because the country needs information now more than ever before.

Today, when we are taking such an important step in our journalistic endeavor, we must be very clear: We suspended our broadcasts on 22 November because obscure interests tried to discredit us and cause people not to favor us.

In this way, these sectors wanted to do away with competitive, honest media that do not obey any political or economic interests.

Those who held this belief were unaware that our self-respect and moral principles are above everything else.

At this time, we also want to express our strong condemnation of those who use terror and violence as a political tool. We condemn those who with such violence have endangered all the democratic and media accomplishments obtained by the Salvadoran people with such great pain.

The Salvadoran people know that the extremists are the ones who have generated the violence and want to take advantage of it to further their interests.

These extremists are the enemies of the democratic system and only in such a system can a newscast like "Up to Date" exist. Democracy and freedom of information are closely knitted elements. One cannot exist without the other.

Why are we returning?

First, because our viewers have given us a supportive response.

Second, because President Alfredo Cristiani's government has always given us guarantees that we can continue broadcasting honest and independent journalism and that the state of emergency—during which freedom of information is restricted—will be short. God willing, it will only last for the time needed to defend our democratic system for the good of the country.

We give our vote of confidence to the government of President Alfredo Cristiani.

We will subject ourselves to the rulings of the state of emergency in the next few days. The "Up to Date" newscast is respectful of the government of the republic and of the prevailing laws.

We understand that it will be for a short period of time. Peace, which we all desire, will only be attained in democracy and with independent journalism.

Board of Directors
Canal Doce

Editorial Criticizes Esquipulas II Agreement

PA0312041189 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 1 Dec 89 p 7

[Editorial: "The Farce of Esquipulas II"]

[Text] The document called Esquipulas II was signed in August 1987, perhaps with the good intentions of some Central American presidents. The document's contents, bold but makeshift as we Central Americans do, was sold to the world as a remarkable step forward in the regional pacification process to the extent that some people went as far as saying, in a boastful lack of common sense, that the document was Central America's second declaration of independence. The general principles and purposes of Esquipulas II are valid, but the naivete of the process was so evident, the lack of guarantees for its fulfillment so absolute, and Daniel Ortega's bad faith so glaring, that all the beautiful rhetoric becomes self-defeating. It creates so much confusion and strategic backwardness that at present, if we are sincere, we cannot conceal that Esquipulas II has become a farce urgently in need of change by considering the extremely complex Central American problem seriously, thoroughly, and responsibly.

The extremist and armed radicalism is the fundamental issue in the Central American problem at present. This extremist rules in Nicaragua. In El Salvador, this same extremism continues to fight for power or at least destroy the country in an insane and vengeful escalation with Nicaragua's open cooperation. When Ortega prepares himself to mount a great electoral masquerade and says he is proud of bleeding the Salvadoran people to death with the sophisticated arms he has been handing over to the guerrillas, how will Esquipulas II ever amount to anything? What can be expected from a presidents' meeting attended by Ortega, present only to take advantage of everything possible for his own project as sort of a Trojan horse of the very same accords he signs?

We, the Salvadorans who are suffering in our flesh the devastation and destruction wrought by a war waged with arms and money from the Soviet Union, Cuba, and Nicaragua, cannot continue to deceive ourselves. Esquipulas II, Alajuela, Costa del Sol, and Tela are but a chain of frustrations which, if allowed to continue as it now is, will seriously endanger freedom and democracy in Central America. Of course, we favor a regional peace process, but it has to be genuine, realistic, and based on calling a spade a spade.

Nicaragua

Ortega To Propose New Contra Withdrawal Date

PA0512021989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0008 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at the Plaza of the Revolution in Managua—live]

[Text] Where are the Managua people? [Crowd shouts: "Here!"] [preceding question and answer are repeated three times] Tonight the Managua people are at this historical square where 10 years ago we celebrated the triumph of the revolution. Are the comrades in the back listening? Are the comrades in the back listening? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] They said no, which means they are indeed listening. On 3 December I was visiting Rama, Muelle de los Bueyes, and Villa Sandino, and people were very enthusiastic there. They were as enthusiastic as the Managua people here tonight. Talking to the peasants and workers, we were all convinced that the Nicaraguan people are aware that they have a single alternative to attain peace. What is the Nicaraguan people's alternative to attain peace? [Crowd shouts: "The Front! The Front!"]

I was telling those peasants that I was talking over the telephone with the Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Venezuelan, and Argentine presidents. I told them that the Salvadoran president had no justification for saying that he did not want to come to Managua for the presidents' summit because the Sandinists were giving weapons and surface-to-air missiles to the Salvadoran revolutionaries. I told Carlos Andres, Oscar Arias, Vinicio Cerezo, and Carlos Menem over the telephone that Nicaragua could perfectly well, and with good reason, also have adopted this attitude. The United States has used and continues to use the Salvadoran Army to send weapons to the counterrevolutionaries who kill the Nicaraguan people. Who introduced the surface-to-air missiles for unconventional warfare groups for the first time here in Nicaragua? Who introduced the surface-to-air missiles for the first time in Central America? Who? [Crowd shouts: "The gringos!"]

The Yankees did it. The Yankees were the first ones to give surface-to-air missiles to the contras. They have given millions of dollars to the contras; they have trained the contras. However, have the surface-to-air missiles been useful for the contras, the Yankees, and the Somozists? Have those millions of dollars they have received from the U.S. Government been useful? Where is Reagan? [Crowd's shouts are indistinct] He who waged a war against us and who said he was going to end up with Nicaragua and the revolution, where is he? [Crowd's shouts indistinct] He is gone. Where is the revolution? [Crowd shouts: "Here!"]

Therefore, I explained to the presidents that there was no justification, because if we let ourselves be carried away by such arguments, I would not have gone to the presidential summit in El Salvador. That Yankee whose last name was Hasenfus—whom we captured here—left from El Salvador. I would not have gone to Honduras either, on whose territory the contras' camps are established. I would not have gone to Honduras. I would have said: I am not going to Honduras because the contras are there. However, I went to El Salvador, and I went to Honduras, because I want peace for Nicaragua. On the other hand, the Salvadoran leaders do not want peace for their people or for Central America.

I told the Central American presidents: Listen, we can do the following so that the Salvadoran Government runs out of excuses. I am willing to go to Costa Rica, to hold a meeting. I spoke to the Costa Rican president on the telephone today, and we agreed in principle that the meeting will be held on 10-11 December in Costa Rica. Later a meeting will be held in Nicaragua. In other words, the Nicaraguan meeting will be left pending. With this flexible attitude, Nicaragua once again demonstrates its willingness to achieve peace.

What do you brothers in Managua who are meeting tonight at this square want? What is the most important, the most urgent matter? [Crowd's shouts indistinct] Peace, peace is the most urgent matter. We all want peace. Does anyone here want war? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Does anyone here want peace? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Let us see you waving your arms and your flags demanding peace for Nicaragua, demanding peace for Central America! [Crowd's shouts indistinct] These are the people's vote; these are the true polls that come out of the hearts and minds of the people. [Crowd applauds, shouts indistinct slogans]

This is democracy; this is the people's power. [Crowd shouts indistinct slogans] Therefore, I will, I am willing to, go to Costa Rica to meet with the Central American presidents so we can discuss two issues that must be discussed urgently. One of them deals with getting the contras out of Honduran territory, because we have a commitment that we—the five Central American presidents—signed and must honor. Let us see if we have an opportunity. We have here a large number of war crippled, heroic combatants who in their wheelchairs are accompanying us tonight. [applause]

Therefore, I will insist there, at that meeting in Costa Rica, that the Tela agreement must be fulfilled. That agreement must be fulfilled. What do you think? Must the Central American presidents fulfill the agreements? Yes or no? [Crowd shouts: "yes!"] Of course they should. The second point I will propose for discussion deals with human rights in Central America. To talk about human rights in Central America is to talk about respecting human rights. Where? [Crowd shouts: "El Salvador!"] Where? [Crowd shouts: "El Salvador!"] Priests should not be assassinated where? [Crowd shouts: "El Salvador!"] Bishops should not be assassinated where? [Crowd shouts: "El Salvador!"] The people should not be bombed where? [Crowd shouts: "El Salvador!"]. A negotiated solution should be found where? [Crowd shouts: "El Salvador!"]

They have to respect human rights in El Salvador, and they have no business causing a scandal with the surface-to-air missiles. What kind of scandal did they make when the Yankees gave surface-to-air missiles to the Somozist mercenaries? What kind of scandal did they make? Do the Somozist mercenaries have more right than the Salvadoran people to have those surface-to-air missiles to defend themselves from the plane attacks? [Crowd shouts: "No!"]

What kind of scandal did they make? There is a false attitude adopted by the Salvadoran Armed Forces. You may remember that Yankee, whose plane was shot down over Rio San Juan by a poor peasant. What was his name? [Crowd shouts: "Hasenfus!"] His name was Hasenfus. That Yankee told the whole story. He said that the air base was located in Ilopango [El Salvador]. Hasenfus said that planes took off from Ilopango Airport. The whole thing was being organized by the Salvadoran Armed Forces, and the president of El Salvador was not even aware of it. He was not even aware of it. That is the truth. The Salvadoran president was not even aware of that.

Now they are making a big scandal just because the Salvadoran rebels have surface-to-air missiles to defend the Salvadoran people from the bombing against the Salvadoran people themselves.

No one wants a military solution. Nicaragua does not want a military solution. The Salvadoran people do not want a military solution. The Salvadoran rebels do not want a military solution, they want a negotiated solution. That is what they have proposed. Let us talk about this as well.

We will seek to achieve a specific agreement at the Costa Rican meeting to fulfill the withdrawal of the contras. You know that we had a deadline for the withdrawal of the contras. What date was that? [Crowd response is indistinct] Tomorrow is 5 December, so that term will not be fulfilled. What will I propose to the presidents? That we extend the deadline until 31 December. Until 31 December, what do you think? Remember that the meeting will be on 10-11 December. If the meeting were today, of course I would say that we would have to meet the 5 December deadline, but since the meeting is going to be on 10-11 December, the deadline will have passed. Well, do you want me to extend the date of 5 December? [Crowd says: "Yes."] All right, I will extend the date of 5 December. I will extend it.

We could give them a chance until 31 December for those people to leave, but as you say, there was a commitment made to demobilize the contras by 5 December. We have to base our demands on the 5 December deadline. The date has expired, and it should have been met, but we cannot extend beyond 31 December, because the Yankees want to keep the contras in Honduras, to have them until February. You know that the Yankees who are not good at understanding our people therefore cannot offer solutions to the problems that occur in our countries, and they always invent absurd things. Here in Nicaragua, the Yankees invented Somoza. What happened with Somoza? What did the people do with Somoza? [Crowd response indistinct] Somoza is gone. Somoza went into history's garbage. The Yankees invented the contras by using the Somozist guardsmen. What have the contras done? Where have they gone? Have they been able to occupy a single town? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] The contras have been able to occupy a fourth of the Honduran territory. If the Hondurans become careless, the contras will take all Honduras for themselves. That is what will happen in Honduras. [applause]

Since the Yankees have not been able to defeat us with the contras, they now have come up with another idea. Now, what is that idea? [Crowd cheers: "The UNO (National Opposition Union)!"] When I was talking with some peasants, they told me: Comrade Daniel, you are right when you say that the UNO is like a mixture of a dog, a hen, a cat, and a Yankee inside a bag. Can you imagine what we would have left by the time we got to town? [cheers, applause] So that is what the Yankees have done. They have taken a bag and put some who claim they are conservatives, Somozists, communists, and contras inside it. That is quite a mess. No one here will put up with that mess. Would any of you believe in that mess? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Nobody in Nicaragua believes that story. Who is going to believe that? Let he who invented that mess believe it. And who invented it? The Yankees invented that; Bush invented that. So let Bush swallow that, and we will see how he fares.

We have to speak with the people. Just look at the crowd we have here today. When we go back home, we must talk to our people in the neighborhood. We have to talk to the people everyday. Some people might be confused. We must talk to our friends and relatives who might be confused and tell them that they should not make mistakes or become confused. The only peace option we have here is, what is the only peace option we have? [Crowd shouts: "The FSLN!"] The FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] is the only option for peace. What is the only option for democracy? [Crowd shouts: "The FSLN!"] The FSLN is the only option for democracy. What is the only option for economic improvement? [Crowd shouts: "The FSLN!"] So, you have to tell the people: Look brother, look sister, don't get confused, don't make a mistake. Elections here mean that Nicaragua is on one side, and the Yankees are on the other side. While defending the blue and white flag of Nicaragua, there is the red and black flag of Sandino, the red and black flag of the FSLN. Daniel is there, defending the red and black flag of the FSLN; the Nicaraguan people are defending the red and black flag of the FSLN. [applause]

We must tell the people: It does not matter if you are not an FSLN militant. It is true that some mistakes have been made, we are not going to deny that. Do you think mistakes have been made? [Crowd answers: "Yes!"] Have mistakes been made? [Crowd answers: "Yes!"] Of course, some mistakes have been made, and we are not going to deny that. It is true that some mistakes have been made. Let us be clear about that. The only force that can give stability to Nicaragua is the FSLN. Therefore, it does not matter if you are not a militant of the FSLN. The important thing is that you, regardless of whether you are a large or small producer, merchant, field worker, city worker or housewife, vote for the FSLN.

I have been talking with the peasants in the northern area recently, Chontales, Boaco, El Rama, and they are asking for better prices for their products. They are right. But I told them: You are right when you ask for better prices for beans and corn, but what about the housewife? That lady is figuring out expenses every day at home to feed the kids, and she is also asking for better prices. To get better prices for the farmers, products would have to be more expensive. However, better prices for the consumers, the housewives, means lower prices for the produce. So, we have to draft a just policy in this regard. We must have a just policy where the peasant will not lose, but also it cannot make life too expensive for the families or for the housewives. And this is where the merchants play an important role. They must not increase prices too much. If the merchant increases prices, this ruins everything. The consumers and the housewives end up paying the excess prices.

So we say to the people: The FSLN with Daniel, Sergio, and other candidates as deputies is the only guarantee for improving Nicaragua's economic situation. Look at the FSLN's list of candidates for deputies which includes people who are not FSLN militants. The list includes producers, teachers, peasants, workers; in other words, the FSLN ticket represents all Nicaraguans. The ticket represents the youth, the women, all social sectors, and all economic sectors of Nicaragua. So, you must tell your friends, relatives, and neighbors about this even if some of them are involved with UNO. Some are confused, and they must know that it does not matter if you are not a FSLN militant; it does not matter if you think like a conservative, or a liberal, or that you were even a Somozist, so long as you did not commit any crimes. Many were linked to Somozism, but they have cooperated with the FSLN, and they are doing a good job, working for the revolution.

The most important thing is that you should think as a Nicaraguan and know where to cast your vote on 25 February. You have to be clear on that. You cannot be confused about this because what happens to those who get confused? [Crowd shouts: "They fall down!"] What happens to those who get mixed up? [Crowd: "They fall down!"] What happens to those who get mixed up? [repeats himself] [Crowd: "They fall down!"] Those who get mixed up... [Crowd: "They fall down!"] Those who get mixed up... [repeats himself] [Crowd: "They fall down!"] Of course they fall down. Thus we must tell those who get mixed up: Listen my brother, make sure you do not get mixed up on 25 February because those who get mixed up... [Crowd responds: "They fall down!"].

Thus on 25 February we must not get confused. You are all baseball fans here, right? Or not? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Who likes the Boer? [a Nicaraguan baseball team] [part of crowd shouts: "We do!"] Who likes the Dantos? [another Nicaraguan baseball team] [part of crowd shouts: "We do!"] All right.

Do you like to hit foul balls? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Do you like to hit foul balls to the left? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Do you like to hit foul balls to the right? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Imagine that your favorite batter is up in the bottom of the ninth inning, the game is tied with two outs. The count is three balls and two strikes. The count is three balls and two strikes [repeats himself]. The batter starts hitting foul balls to the left and right. What would happen with the next throw? The batter could easily strike out because he is hitting foul balls. [Crowd laughs]. He could strike out, right? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"]

What could happen to those who hit too many foul balls? [Crowd shouts: "They strike out!"] Those who hit too many foul balls strike out!

Therefore, on 25 February no one should hit foul balls either to the right or left. You have to hit the ball down the middle into square No 5! [the number of the square where the FSLN ballots will be placed inside the voting booth on election day] [Crowd shouts 3 times: "Into square No 5!"] And the people of Managua will be there on 25 February. On 25 February the people of Managua will cast their votes for Nicaragua, for Daniel, for the FSLN, for dignity, justice, the homeland, for our independence, peace, and democracy. [applause] We have won. [Crowd responds: "And onward!"] Everything will be better. We have won. [Crowd: "And onward!"] Everything will be better. We have won. [Crowd: "And onward!"] Everything will be better.

Tonight, 4 December [6-second break in reception] for a new insurrection that will do away with the Yankee aggression on 25 February 1990. The campaign for peace, for democracy, for economic recovery, for Nicaragua, for Cesar Sandino, for Carlos Fonseca, and for Rigoberto Lopez Perez has begun. Long live the people of Managua. [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"]. Long live free Nicaragua [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Free fatherland [Crowd shouts: "Or death!"].

Ortega Proposes Topics for 'Special' Summit

PA0412163089 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] President Daniel Ortega yesterday outlined a proposal for discussion at the eventual Central American summit, which includes the demobilization of the contras and the visit by the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission to jails in the area.

On a tour of the 5th region during his electoral campaign, the Nicaraguan head of state asserted that the Honduran Government must expel the contras, even if it is after 5 December, the date stipulated in the Tela agreements, because otherwise the Honduran people will lash out at them themselves. Addressing approximately 6,000 residents of Muelle de Los Bueyes Municipality, Ortega disclosed that he has talked by telephone with the Costa Rican, Venezuelan, Argentine, and Mexican presidents over the past few days to arrange for a special summit. In this regard, Ortega insisted that the heads of

state on the [Central American] isthmus should show more concern about human rights.

[Begin Ortega recording] The peace agreement signed by the Central American presidents states clearly that all Central American Governments are obliged to enforce respect for human rights. Therefore, we must demand that the Salvadoran Government and the other Central American governments respect human rights in their respective countries.

We have a proposal, that the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, internationally recognized human rights organizations, and the International Red Cross be allowed to freely visit all jails in all Central American countries to enable them to determine the status of prisoners in all of Central America and determine the status of human rights in all of Central America. That is to say, I am going to invite the Central American presidents to comply by respecting human rights and do what we are doing here in Nicaragua.

We have nothing to hide here. If we have made mistakes, all right, we did, and we have to sit down [words indistinct] not to commit one again. If we have not made mistakes, this will also become known. However, we have an open door policy for all international organizations—the Red Cross comes here, Amnesty International comes here, Americas Watch comes here. All human rights organizations come here and the doors are open to all of them. Therefore, the other Central American countries must do the same for the human rights of the people of Central American to be respected. [end recording]

Chamorro Appoints 2 New Advisers; Others Slated

PA0512042089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0247 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Managua, 4 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—Violeta Chamorro, Nicaraguan presidential candidate for the National Opposition Union [UNO], which comprises 14 political parties, appointed today two new personal advisers in preparation for the 25 February elections next year.

During an event that took place at her Managua home, Chamorro announced the appointment of Francisco Mayorga as her economic adviser. Mayorga is a professor at the Central American Institute of Business Administration (INCAE). She also appointed her son Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios as her political adviser.

Chamorro Barrios, who was also a member of the Nicaraguan Resistance Directorate ("contras") until 1987, joined the electoral process last October.

A few days ago, Violeta Chamorro appointed Alfredo Cesar as her main adviser. Cesar is a former member of the Nicaraguan Resistance Directorate and is presently the secretary general of the Social Democratic Party.

Chamorro also appointed businessman Gilberto Cuadra, as her adviser in matters of production.

Other members of Violeta Chamorro's team of advisers are Oscar Herdocia Lacayo, her legal affairs adviser, and Antonio Jarquin, her social affairs adviser.

Sources from the main opposition bloc said that four more experts are needed to complete the list of Chamorro's advisers.

The Nicaraguan opposition candidate intends to surround herself with a group of top-notch people who can advise her on matters related to the reconstruction of this country.

Dissident Contras Demand Demobilization

PA0112214089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1907 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—Contra fighters based in Honduras opposing the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) leadership, spoke out today in favor of immediate demobilization and repatriation.

The dissidents told ACAN-EFE that "the demobilization is a positive step toward reunification with our families, a return to Nicaragua, and an end to this war once and for all."

Spokesmen for the fighters, who wished to remain anonymous, are part of about 12,000 fighters who are still in the RN camps in Honduran territory bordering Nicaragua.

They said that "while the commandos have fought all these years for democracy and live under poor conditions, the general staff commanders live it up in Tegucigalpa."

"This war has only served to get the leaders rich at the expense of the lives of the commandos who suffer and put up with the worst," stress the dissidents.

They called upon their comrades-in-arms to demand "a just demobilization that guarantees an end to the war and the start of a new life in Nicaragua."

In 8 years of contra existence, the leadership headed by Colonel Enrique Bermudez has successfully weathered several opposition movements, including some led by troop commanders.

The current dissident movement, however, is the first to demand "demobilization" according to the last summit of Central American presidents that set 5 December as the deadline for the anti-Sandinists to lay down their weapons.

Panama

U.S. Generals Due To Appear Before Magistrate

PA0412164189 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 4 Dec 89 pp 1, 8

[Text] Colonel Maxwell Thurman and Colonel Marc Cisneros [ranks as published], accused of repeatedly violating the Administrative Code, are to appear today before Alex Jaen, police magistrate for liberated Ancon, to answer charges presented by Honorable Representative Jorge Isaac Chandeck, who is seeking respect and tranquility for all residents of the corregimineto, the province, and the country.

Col Maxwell Thrurman and Col Marc Cisneros must answer the summons by national civilian authorities by 1000 today. They are being charged, among other things, for: A) Altering public order; B) Blocking traffic; C) Damaging public roads; D) Bearing heavy-gauge weapons and ordering soldiers into areas that are for the exclusive use of the Panamanian population, and for violating Articles 900, 906, and 956 of the Administrative Code. The articles deal with the peace and tranquillty to which all Panamanian citizens are entitled, even more so inside the free and sovereign territory that has reverted to Panama following the canal treaties.

Alex Jaen, in his role as police magistrate for liberated Ancon, will deal with the unprecedented action taken by the Honorable Representative Jorge Isaac Chandeck, who turned to civilian authorities to end the actions of arrogance and subjugation that Southern Command Army troops have tried to carry out inside the white areas marked in the Torrijos-Carter treaties, which are areas of full national sovereignty.

Official Comments on Summonses

PA0512003489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2314 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Ancon Corregimiento Representative Jorge Isaac Chandeck has said that the chiefs of the U.S. Southern Command will become fugitives from Panamanian justice if they do not comply with the summonses issued by the Ancon Police Magistrate Court; the summones are the result of an accusation filed by Chandeck. Chandeck stated that the second summons was delivered today.

[Begin recording] [Chandeck] At 1100 Ancon Police Magistrate Alex Jaen met with and delivered to Panama Defense Forces Military Provost Major Rodriguez the second summons issued against Marc Cisneros and Mr Thurman of the U.S. Army.

This is the second summons. If they fail to respond by 1000 tomorrow, the third summons will be issued in accordance with Panamanian laws. If those gentlemen fail to appear before the Panamanian authorities by 1000 on 6 December, they will automatically become fugitives from Panamanian justice.

[Reporter] Honorable Chandeck, what is the purpose of the accusation presented before the Ancon Police Magistrate Court? The community knows that the Panamanian authorities cannot arrest those two men.

[Chandeck] We know that it is very difficult to arrest them, for obvious reasons. However, it is important to note that the United States Government, from Reagan to Bush, has used all kinds of tricks to make General Manuel Antonio Noriega a fugitive from U.S. justice. However, the U.S. Government has not presented any evidence against Gen Noriega, and it will be unable to do so because it has neither a case nor any evidence to present.

In the accusation I presented before the Ancon Police Magistrate, I have included over 16 cases of U.S. Army violations on Panamanian territory here in the Ancon area. We have over 1,500 documentaries and testimonials that we can present as evidence, not only before Panamanian courts, but before any court in the world.

Thus, the Panamanian people should know that although it is difficult to arrest those gentlemen, those gentlemen will certainly become fugitives from Panamanian justice, because their arrogance will prevent them from appearing before Panamanian authorities. Their appearance before Panamanian courts will take away part of their so-called military might and arrogance.

You can be certain that those gentlemen will become fugitives from Panamanian justice just like any common individual would, because they are generals in their Army, but here in Panama there is only one general, and his name is Manuel Antonio Noriega, and that is it. [end recording]

Column Hails Charges

PA0412212889 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 4 Dec 89 p 19

["Hard Line" column by Alberto Barrera]

[Text] The patriotically strong complaint that has been filed by Honorable Representative Jorge Isaac Chandeck against Generals Marc Cisneros and Max Thurman depicts the image of a proud people who are not about to let themselves be subjugated. It is like David facing Goliath.

Out of Chandeck's complaint emerges the Panamanian people's cry of rebellion; the outrages committed by the U.S. Army South on Panamanian soil under these generals cannot go ignored. The U.S. soldiers have violated our jurisdiction not only in Ancon Corregimiento, but also in Chilibre—where they damaged the water purification plant and sowed panic among the residents with their aircraft—La Chorrera, Arraijan, and Colon. They have allowed humble Panamanians to be killed by the explosive devices that they irresponsibly leave in populated areas.

General Manuel Antonio Noriega was correct in telling the International Conference Against Intervention in Central America and Panama that "the operations being held are intended to provoke human error and tragedy between the two peoples."

We feel that the degree of professionalism of the Panama Defense Forces, the Dignity Battalions, and the CODEPADI [Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity] is very high, because they have not stepped on the banana peels that Cisneros and Thurman throw at them each time their soldiers enter our towns in battle gear.

The White House chief and his clique have no other choice but to admit that they have made a mistake and failed in their plans to subjugate a nation that is not prepared to budge or submit to their desires. This nation rejects colonialism and is waving a lighted torch of liberation and national dignity.

Chandeck's complaint follows the line of the new Republic headed by President Francisco Rodriguez, with its war laws and Job's patience, because it has not lost it's patience despite the constant abuses by George Bush's government.

Cisneros and Thurman must appear today at a Panamanian court in Ancon to respond to Chandeck's complaint about "serious and constant acts of harassment against the communities of Gamboa, Balboa, Paraiso, Curundu, and Amador with troops and military equipment under their command."

If they do not appear in court, Cisneros and Thurman will be declared fugitives of Panamanian justice, and an arrest warrant will be issued against them.

Noriega Comments on U.S. Charges, Coup, Crisis

PA0412235889 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1414 GMT 4 Dec 89

["Exclusive" interview with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces, FDP, by Ramiro Sierra Rodriguez in Panama City; date not given—recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Sierra] ...and you are constantly accused of having links with international drug traffickers. What is your reply to those accusations?

[Noriega] We are tired of proving that this is not true. Panama has worked against drug trafficking for the past 20 years, when no one cared about that struggle. Therefore, those who forged....[changes thought] planned the repressive struggle began their actions in Panama. The first forums and the first continental alliances were made in Panama to raise the struggle to a higher level, so the people and governments, even the armies, became aware of this. That is our position and the rest is simply part of the aggression against leaders who are waging a liberation struggle. That is nothing new. The history of the Mexican revolution is also....[changes thought] all those who led the struggle were called bandits and heartless killers, so it must be seen within this context, meaning that disinformation and psychological methods are used to invalidate the actions of leaders who are considered dangerous.

[Sierra] Nevertheless, the U.S. Government insists that you, General Noriega, are Panama's problem, and that only your removal from power will solve the Panamanian crisis. What is your opinion on this?

[Noriega] Look, this is what people who know nothing about Panama's history are told. They said the same thing about Torrijos, yet the liberation struggle continued. If we go back even further, the same things were also said about people who were previously called communists. Those who protested and waged the liberation struggle in Panama were called communists and Marxists, yet the liberation struggle continues. Noriega is a historical accident in time and space; tomorrow there will be others who will pick up the banner. There will be other leaders after the year 2000, but there will be a leader who will carry the homeland's flag in a liberation struggle. It is a mistake to try to change history; history cannot be changed. History is made up of events that have occurred and are occurring. You cannot say-....[changes thought] how beautiful the world would be if the United States did not exist.

[Sierra] Referring to the public and open threat from the U.S. Government, meaning that it reserves the right to intervene militarily in Panama, what is your opinion?

[Noriega] Well, that is a show of arrogance. This is simply proof, proof that countries that call themselves champions of democracy and human rights use demagoguery when it serves their interests. The mere fact that a threat was issued and the dignity of a smaller state—which does not use terrorist tactics, is not belligerant, and does not threaten other countries—was violated, means that the people's rights are being violated. These rights are included in the UN Charter. We present this to the world as proof of the arrogance of the neocolonialism that calls for maintaining colonies in Latin America.

[Sierra] Gen Noriega, are you afraid that Panama will be isolated from the other Central American countries? For example, during the recent Central American summit, there were statements implying that nations that have been traditional friends might form an alliance to withdraw their embassies from Panama.

[Noriega] Yes, that could be done but....[changes thought] this is possible, we cannot rule it out, but I am telling you that the people are not overwhelmed by these situations. They are rising to the challenge and seeking to overcome these actions. They are finding solutions that were not clearly seen before. Panama's geographic position is essential, because all the flags of the world pass through here going from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Panama's geographic position supports one of its strategic natural resources.

[Sierra] Talking about expectations, you know that elections will soon be held in Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica. Do you believe that there will be a change of attitude in the new leaders of these countries that could be interpreted as support for the government you are backing in Panama?

[Noriega] Your question is very important. We have a thesis: The events occurring in Panama, given the aggression, which is psychological, economic, and military, are a phenomenon that all Latin American countries must take very seriously, because history shows the trends that are established by imperialist and neocolonialist countries are later applied in other countries. Today it is Panama, but tomorrow it could be Guatemala, Honduras, Venezuela, or Costa Rica. Therefore, Latin American dignity must surpass neocolonialist interests and pressures.

[Sierra] Do you expect a favorable attitude from the new Central American presidents?

[Noriega] Well, we cannot predict things, but we can state that even the governments lend themselves....[changes thought] have withstood pressure, we understand this, from the IMF, and the U.S. establishment. We know they realize that they are acting incorrectly and have adopted an unsatisfactory position. They are compromising their countries for a quota or an extension of a debt's collection date, and sooner or later they will sacrifice their people for the sake of the United States' interests.

[Sierra] Talking about recent events, can it be said that the internal situation in Panama is completely under control after the foiled coup d'etat on 3 October?

[Noriega] Well, the fact is...the fact is that the incidents that morning were over by 1300. There was no general uprising; there was no other action in the specific area where the events occurred.

[Sierra] Commander Noriega, could you give us some details about those hours on 3 October?

[Noriega] Well, [words indistinct] would be too long. We insist that the U.S. establishment's presence here, through the 470th Intelligence Group, was obvious before, during, and after that [word indistinct]. There were different forms of contacts, advice given, and protection; all this was connected with the psychological profiles of people who participated in that incident. This characterizes the nature of the uprising and is nothing new, it is nothing new [repeats himself] because they want to subjugate or alter the backbone of Panama's sovereignty and the liberation struggle, meaning the Panama Defense Forces. That is why they go directly to the FDP, and that is why they are trying to break the FDP, knowing that if they break it.... [corrects himself] believing that the people will be defenseless if they break the FDP.

This is a terrible mistake, because the FDP represents one part of the liberation struggle; the people are the other part. This is not a recent struggle, and it has not been waged by one man; it goes back to 1904 when the treaties were signed. The patricians of that time spurned the treaties, which no Panamanian signed; they were signed by a Frenchman, so there have been several armed incidents against the United States since 1904.

There have been deaths; youths have died; leaders have been assassinated—Remon, Torrijos, and all those who have been part of the liberation struggle. The names change, but the liberation struggle will not end until the last soldier leaves this land in December 1999.

[Sierra] Changing the topic, but always within the context of the Panamanian problem, what measures has the Panamanian Government considered to counter the economic boycott designed by the United States to force your resignation from the FDP?

[Noriega] Well, Panama has tried to achieve an internal rebirth with its own resources, meaning, it has tried to use its own resources to solve the problems caused by the aggression. This is not the first time that a nation has been isolated. Spain was isolated and boycotted at the international level; Cuba and many other countries were, too. The United States assumed the right to be judge and jury, to be God and to decide what is good or bad. The nations must find the ways to meet their economic obligations.

[Sierra] How much is the financial situation of Panama affected by the economic blockade imposed by the United States?

[Noriega] The economy is seriously affected in its basic resources. For example, the U.S. transnational companies refuse to pay taxes, and the United States refuses to comply with the Panama Canal annuity payments, as stipulated by the treaties signed at the OAS. Therefore, there is a considerable amount due, which is growing every day; this is affecting the public health and education sectors, and all of the country's economy. Furthermore, when the United States gets ready to pay that money, it will probably say that it cannot pay Panama, as Panama owes the IMF.

[Sierra] What has happened to the funds retained by the United States that belong to the Panamanian Government?

[Noriega] In spite of all the charges that have been raised in the various courts and forums of the world, those funds are being withheld. Part of those funds were used in the past electoral campaign, when the United States wanted to impose a docile president in Panama. Part of those official funds of the Republic of Panama were given to third parties in a flagrant violation of respect for human dignity and rights.

[Sierra] General, you speak about a docile president in Panama. What difference would a president from the opposition make concerning the future of the Panama Canal?

[Noriega] This is exactly why the United States needs a docile president, because it wants to gain an advantage from those treaties it signed. In this manner, as the time approaches for the U.S. presence to end, it wants to have a docile president who will help the United States obtain more military bases and ensure its presence beyond the year 2000. This can only occur with a president that is a traitor.

[Sierra] Commander Noriega, some public opinion sectors consider you the main obstacle to normalizing the political situation in Panama. On the other hand, others see you as a symbol of Panamanian dignity when you confront the United States. What do you think about this?

[Noriega] I keep up the struggle because the groups I represent, both the Armed Forces and the people's groups identified with this liberation struggle, have asked me to continue the struggle. People do not buy leaders, they make and follow them. On the contrary, I am an obstacle for those who want to sell out the fatherland.

Endara Claims Noriega 'Absolute Dictator'

PA0412231989 Paris AFP in Spanish 2138 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 4 Dec (AFP)—After having been in hiding for 15 days because of the arrest of two of his principal collaborators, opposition leader Guillermo Endara reappeared today and accused General Manuel Noriega of "being the absolute dictator of Panama."

Endara appeared on his own at the Attorney General's Office regarding a suit filed against him 2 months ago [as received] by Government and Justice Minister Renato Pereira.

The government filed the charge after Endara made statements in Costa Rica alluding to the possible assassination of the army commander, saying that Noriega would only leave power in "wooden pajamas."

At the end of his session at the Attorney General's Office, international reporters asked him about the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives' proposal that Noriega be appointed chief of government.

The opposition leader responded that any statement by the assembly "only reiterates what the whole world knows: Noriega has absolute power in Panama."

Endara, who headed the presidential ticket of the Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) in last May's elections, expressed his disagreement with the U.S. ban imposed on Panamanian-flagged ships, saying that the sanctions "only harm the Panamanian people."

Costa Rican Officer Reveals Espionage Activities

PA0412220889 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 4 Dec 89 pp 1,8

[Article by Rogelio Martiz]

[Text] On Sunday, 3 December, the crew members of the shrimp boat "Joymar" recovered in Bique Bay the body of 42-year-old Charles Glen Stockwell, a U.S. pilot who drowned when his helicopter—a UH-1H military aircraft—fell into the sea at 1515 on Friday 1 December.

Ney Eduardo Escobar Alfaro, a 34-year-old lieutenant colonel of the Costa Rican Rural Police, was in the helicopter with Stockwell when it crashed. He was rescued unharmed by Panama Defense Forces [FDP] frogmen minutes after the accident occurred.

Ney Eduardo Escobar Alfaro, a lieutenant of the Costa Rican Rural Police, provided commando transportation, reconnaissance, relays to infiltration posts, and other espionage services to the Nicaraguan contras.

Escobar Alfaro was rescued by the FDP on Friday evening after the aircraft flown by U.S. pilot Charles Stockwell crashed in Bique Bay, near the port of Vacamonte, on the Pacific Ocean.

The Costa Rican official said in his statements that the aforementioned operations and logistic support operations for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries were supported and helped by the administrations of Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and U.S. President George Bush.

He also said that he had been engaged in this clandestine work for several years and that the Costa Rican president was fully aware of them—adding that the operations center is located in Nicoya, where the Aeroservicios Company, to which he offers his support, operates.

He added that the company's manager, Enrique Villalobos, was advised by Charles Stockwell, an officer and a Cobra helicopter pilot who died in the accident.

He also added that other groups of Americans were in charge of compiling all the information and sending it by telex and fax to Howard Air Force Base in Panama.

The helicopter's flight was completely illegal and clandestine, because it had not been reported to the Civil Aeronautics Directorate, and the aircraft was used for espionage activities. The helicopter took off from Punta Arenas, Costa Rica; its destination was Howard Air Force Base.

The aircraft had to make an emergency landing on the highway leading to the Vacamonte port installations and was refueled at a gas station owned by Federico Humbert, Jr without notifying the authorities.

Arraijan Representative Segunda de Rivera ordered the removal of the body. The event was attended by Arraijan Mayor Alberto de Santis Rodriguez; 2d Lieutenant Ariel

Castillero, chief of the Department of National Investigations branch in La Chorrera; Sergeant Elias Guevara of the S-2 in the 10th Zone; and civilian authorities from the area.

Executive Decree Regulates Firing of Workers

PA0412133189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 1 Dec 89 pp 1, 19

[Executive Decree 25; dated 30 November; issued in Panama City]

[Text] To take temporary measures on the discharge of workers, the Provisional President of the Republic, in full use of his legal powers;

Whereas;

It is the state's duty to regulate labor relations and prepare economic policies geared toward ensuring that all workers have the necessary conditions for a decent existence;

The crudeness and extent of the economic crisis being experienced by the country, as a consequence of U.S. aggression, merits that the state take actions to protect workers, placing special emphasis on rulings that cover reasons that can be used by employers to discharge workers;

That, within this context, December could become a month of uncertainty and anxiety for many Panamanian workers' homes, as they are confronted with possible discharge from the labor market because of the existing crisis;

That, in the interest of protecting the family unit at all times and attaining the working classes' well-being, especially during the New Year's festivities, the national government believes it is necessary to prepare and implement a legal instrument that will hinder, as much as possible, the excessive discharge of workers at this time of the year;

Decrees;

Article 1: During December, labor relations can only be terminated for reasons of discipline or irresponsibility, expiration of labor pact, termination of specific work, and exceptions to the stability regulations.

Article 2: During December, labor relations cannot be terminated based on mutual agreement.

Article 3: The Labor and Social Welfare Ministry will not process any discharge authorization requests resulting from economic causes during December.

Article 4: Actions or omissions that contravene the present executive decree will be null, and workers will have the right to claim their reinstatement at the general or regional labor directorates, in accordance with the procedures for a short trial. The workers will also have a right to receive their wages from the date of dismissal to reinstatement.

Article 5: During the period this decree is in force, the legal dispositions that contravene it will be temporarily suspended.

Article 6: This decree will be in effect from the date it is announced until 3 January 1990.

To be published and complied with;

Given in Panama City on 30 November 1990 Francisco A. Rodriguez P., provisional president of the Republic; George Fisher, labor and social welfare minister

Commentator Supports Suing U.S. at The Hague

PA0512041789 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 3 Dec 89 pp 18-A, 10-A

[Article by David Acosta]

[Text] My good friend and comrade in the struggle for sovereignty for all these years, Baltazar Renan Aizpurua, noted in one of his patriotic columns that he had little optimism regarding the results of a Panamanian suit at the International Court of Justice [ICJ] at The Hague. I think differently, and I explained this in different newspaper articles and in my daily commentaries at Radio Uno Soberana. Panama must not miss the opportunity to present its just cause at any international tribune. This is our chief weapon in fighting U.S. imperialism. The humiliation and brazen arrogance we suffer from by the Yankees is so inhumane that it is seen as an open declaration of war by the United States against Panama. The whole world knows it; however, it has not fully responded because of the great deal of disinformation that the empire is spreading through its international news agencies, which discredit the truth about Panama. It is argued that Nicaragua did not get anything from the ICJ ruling that condemned the U.S. for mining that country's ports. However, let us recall that because of that ruling, Reagan suspended those actions and the gringos have to pay a large sum for damages. One day, the United States will have to pay when the genocidal government that now rules the White House changes. In addition, Nicaragua managed to gain international standing for its cause, receiving aid, grants, and soft loans from many countries of the world. The ICJ rulings are covered by the world news agencies, even those news agencies controlled from the Potomac. If Panama takes its case to The Hague, we are certain that this action will have worldwide repercussions. Those countries skeptical about the situation in Panama will have to admit the righteousness of our cause. The Latin American countries will understand that the last battle of America is being waged in Panama.

Moreover, the Panamanian suit should not be based on just the following: the brazen theft of income taxes and social security fees of the Panama Canal employees and

U.S. companies located in Panama, the freezing of more that $60 million belonging to the National Bank, the freezing of the assets of the Panamanian consulates in the United States, the freezing of the Panama Canal annuity payments, the seizing of Air Panama airline company assets, the suspension of commerce with Panamanian companies, and the economic blockade of Panama's other economic activities; it should also be based on the arrogant U.S. military maneuvers that have struck the the most profound chord of Panamanian nationalism. The suit should also cover the people killed and wounded by the bombs abandoned in shooting range areas, and, most of all, the violations of the Torrijos-Carter Treaty, Article V, which reads: "Employees of the Panama Canal Commission, their dependents and designated contractors of the Panama Canal Commission, who are nationals of the United States of America, shall respect the laws of the Republic of Panama and shall abstain from any activity incompatible with the spirit of this treaty. Accordingly, they willl abstain from any political activity in the Republic of Panama as well as from any intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic of Panama."

Paper Foresees Future Treaty Violations

PA0412131989 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Dec 89 p 1

[Unattributed article]

[Text] Nancy Trotter, U.S. coordinator of the Joint Committee's Land and Waters Subcommittee, has disregarded the goodwill actions adopted by Colonel Charles Simons, copresident of this organization in 1982. Mrs Trotter is unilaterally trying to tear down fences built, through bilateral agreements by the authority of the Panama Canal treaties, to increase security in the housing areas.

Mrs Trotter's plans are very disturbing, because they suggest that the U.S. Armed Forces in 1999 will also disregard the signature on the Panama Canal treaties of former President Carter and abrogate for itself ungranted rights, such as remaining in national territory beyond that year.

Argentina

Topics for Montevideo Talks With UK Highlighted

PY0412150089 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1740 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—Argentina and the UK will resume bilateral negotiations in Montevideo on 5 December. These talks are aimed at establishing concrete measures for the regular maritime and air traffic near the Malvinas Islands to prevent international incidents.

The talks will be focused on creating common measures to govern search, salvage, and rescue operations for crafts and vessels in danger; connections between the Comodoro Rivadavia and Malvinas airports; and the exchange of meteorological data. The talks, which will be held in Montevideo until 7 December, will not include a discussion of fishing licenses. This topic will be discussed in the next meeting, to be held in Paris.

A new stage in relations between the two countries started on 1 December, when the ban on the use of Argentine air and maritime stations by British planes and vessels was suspended. The British had been prohibited from using these stations since the 1982 war in the South Atlantic.

A Foreign Ministry source has pointed out that the only ban still in force prohibits foreign fishing vessels operating exclusively with British permission from refueling at Argentine ports. These vessels can, however, anchor at these ports. These bans do not apply to commercial and sports vessels, which can use all Argentine river and sea ports.

There are no bans on British civilian or commercial aircraft, which can fly over Argentine territory on their way to third nations and use local airports. It has also been established that these planes will receive radio support, meteorological information, and the other usual services provided for in international agreements.

All these measures, plus any that may be agreed on during the upcoming talks, are aimed at "creating an atmosphere of confidence" between the two nations that can lead to a complete normalization of diplomatic relations, which could be decided on during the meeting scheduled for February 1990 in Madrid.

The Argentine delegation to the Montevideo meeting will include Navy and Air Force officers who will act as advisers on the maritime and air navigation measures to be discussed with the aim of preventing any repetition of the isolated incidents that have occurred over the last few years.

Commodore Ricardo Pezzana will represent the Air Force and Ship-of-the-Line Captain Horacio Raizer will represent the Navy. No Army representative will attend the meeting, because no issues related to the Army have been included on the agenda.

Israel's Herzog Arrives for Official Visit

PY0512134089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1312 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (TELAM) — Israeli President Herzog arrived at Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport at 1050 [1250 GMT] for an official visit that will conclude on 7 December.

Herzog, the first Israeli president to visit Argentina, will meet with his Argentine colleague, Carlos Menem. Herzog will also address the Legislative Assembly.

USSR's Aganbegyan To Visit, Meet With Menem

PY0312001989 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2147 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—Abel Aganbegyan, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's main economic advisor, will arrive in Argentina on 9 December. During his visit he will meet with Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem, Interior Minister Nestor Rapanelli, and former President Raul Alfonsin.

Aganbegyan, who is considered one of the "fathers" of perestroyka and is chairman of the Commission for Economic Reforms of the Presidium of the USSR, is visiting Argentina in response to an invitation extended by the Mediterranean Foundation, headed by Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo; the Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO); and the Soviet news agency NOVOSTI.

Aganbegyan will be in Cordoba on 10 and 11 December to give a lecture at the Mediterranean Foundation. He will also hold a meeting with Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz and visit the Renault car factory. On 12 December Aganbegyan will be in Buenos Aires, where he will meet with President Carlos Menem and with former President Raul Alfonsin.

Aganbegyan, who is of Armenian origin, is scheduled to meet with leaders of the Argentine Armenian community, Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo, and leaders from the Justicialist Party, the Radical Civic Union, and other political parties. Aganbegyan will also inaugurate the Argentine-Soviet Relations Institute.

Aganbegyan is the rector of the Soviet Economic Academy and an expert in problems related to labor production, salary, and living conditions in several social groups. He has carried out research work in economic-mathematic [words indistinct] and has drafted a model on economic management, economic structure, economic growth, and political-economic problems.

Armed Forces To Receive 'Emergency Salary Hike'

PY0212201189 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1414 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—Navy Chief of Staff Rear Admiral Jorge Ferrer has reported that the Armed

Forces have been notified about "an emergency salary hike for civilian and military personnel." The salary increase will reportedly be financed with an advance disbursement of 8 billion australes agreed to by the economy minister. According to LA NACION, the Defense Ministry had requested an advance of 11 billion australes.

The approved increase will allow high-ranking echelons to receive 25,000 australes more than in last October, while noncommissioned officers will receive a 46,000-austral increase.

At a graduation ceremony for naval aviators at the Punta Indio base, Ferrer said: "We are aware of the nation's needs, but this was necessary." He also noted that during the next few days a Navy representative will travel to Montevideo to participate in a series of meetings scheduled by the national government with British government and military officials.

Former Rebels Meet; Pardon Ruled Unconstitutional

PY0312212189 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 3 Dec 89 p 13

[Text] Cashiered Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico yesterday said that fellow rebel leader ex-Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin was the "best soldier in the Argentine Army" and should be the force's chief-of-staff.

Meanwhile Navy Chief-of Staff Jorge Ferrer confirmed that Armed Forces military and civilian personnel would be receiving a 26-45 percent emergency pay increase on October salaries. The increase will reportedly be funded by an eight-billion-austral advance from the Economy Ministry whereas the Defence Ministry had allegedly requested 11 billion.

The wage increase comes at the same time as a flurry of Army hardliner (carapintada) activity. The diehards yesterday morning held a mass in Saavedra to commemorate the first anniversary of the Villa Martelli military uprising, which was headed by Seineldin. The mass was attended by Seineldin, Rico and more than 200 servicemen and civilians.

Rico, who underlined that there were no differences between himself and Seineldin, said that the mass was held in order to "pray for the resurgence of the Army."

The leader of the two Army rebellions prior to Villa Martelli further said that there had been no change in the force since General Isidro Caceres became Army Chief-of-Staff even though at this time last year Caceres was widely regarded as the guarantor of the agreement which put an end to the Villa Martelli uprising.

Rico went on to say that he opposed the formation of a special antidrug squad, for whose command the government reportedly favours Seineldin, saying that if the United States wanted to fight drugs, it should do so within its own territory. The Coast and Border Guards should combat drug trafficking within Argentina, he said.

When asked to comment in a radio interview on Retired General Antonio Bussi's remarks that soldiers should hang up their uniforms in order to dedicate themselves to politics, Rico retorted that he had been "practising politics since 1987," the year in which he staged his first rebellion during Easter Week.

Rico claimed that between 50 and 80 percent of the Army supported him while the rest were apathetic. He blasted Caceres, saying that he spoke of unity while ruling by division.

Looking beyond the region, Rico said that he did not take very seriously what was occurring in East Germany and Czechoslovakia because the Red Army was still intact. For that reason Latin America should unite against a possible guerrilla comeback, he deduced. In any case there were subversive centres other than the Soviet Union, he reasoned, such as Cuba, Nicaragua, North Korea and drug traffickers but he trusted in a Peronist government to fight subversion, as it had done in 1975.

Defence Minister Italo Luder yesterday played down these statements as a "personal opinion." In turn he highlighted the pay increase for the Armed Forces.

Lieutenant Colonel Angel Leon, who headed the Tucuman part of Rico's Monte Caseros rebellion at the beginning of 1988, was appointed the spokesman for those at the mass.

Leon, who was clad in dress uniform, said that prayers were given for the fatherland and for the "honour and dignity" of the Army, as well as thanks to the Virgin Mary for having avoided "bloodshed between comrades."

There was no demonstration after the mass by the rigthwingers although some of the worshippers scattered pamphlets reading on one side "1988-1989, December 2, Villa Martelli—the trench of a fatherland with honour" and on the other side "Seineldin is the people."

However a dinner at the riverside steakhouse Los Amigos was scheduled for after 9 pm last night. Seineldin, who reportedly favours restraint and opposed any demonstration after the mass, said he would not attend the dinner.

Finally, the Bahia Blanca Federal Appeals Court ruled that the October 7 pardon benefiting Rico, Seineldin, Leon and 267 others was unconstitutional.

Alsogaray Admits Disagreement, Denies Resignation

PY0312205889 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 2 Dec 89 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) Presidential Foreign Debt Adviser Alvaro Alsogaray yesterday denied rumors claiming he

might leave the position because of a disagreement over the progress of the current economic plan. However, the deputy-elect for the Centre Democratic Union (UCeDe) admitted he does not agree with the "executive part" of the plan. Meanwhile, UCeDe authorities expressed their concern about the imbalances these rumors might elicit in the financial system. The problem will be analyzed by the party's National Convention during the meeting to be held today with the purpose of replacing authorities.

Cabinet Decides on Reorganization of SIDE

PY0112185789 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to Oscar Granillo Ocampo, Legal and Technical Secretary of the Presidency, the most important point discussed today at the ministerial cabinet meeting was the restructuring of the Secretariat for State Intelligence [SIDE].

The ministerial Cabinet decided to eliminate all SIDE delegations abroad and to reduce the current level of personnel at home. [passage omitted]

Jaroslavsky Reelected President of UCR Deputies

PY0112144689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0956 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Summary] For the seventh consecutive time, Cesar Jaroslavsky was reelected chairman of the UCR [Radical Civic Union] deputies bloc last night. He will be heading a bloc made up of competing sectors, in which Alfonsin's orthodox followers have lost their absolute majority.

This new bloc leadership is as follows: Chairman, Cesar Jaroslavsky (Entre Rios); First Vice President, Jose Alberto Furque; Second Vice President, Juan Domingo Canata (Federal Capital); Third Vice President, Miguel Martinez Marquez (Cordoba); Secretary General, Daniel Ramos (Buenos Aires Province).

The following have been designated secretaries: Guillermo Tello Rosas (Federal Capital), Diego Brest (Corrientes), Anibal Fernandez (Chaco), Jorge Agundes (San Luis), Oscar Castillo (Catamarca), and Miguel Ortiz Pellegrini (Cordoba). Miguel Martinez (Salta) has been designated deputy treasurer.

Vice President Duhalde Returns From Peru

PY0212122889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1745 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 1 Dec (NA)—Upon returning from Lima today, Vice President Eduardo Duhalde said that "95 percent of the money earned from international drug trafficking is placed in European and U.S. banks. [no closing quotation marks as received]

He also said that "drug traffickers on many occasions are protected by governments, repression organizations, politicians, or military men from the countries in which they have settled, and they have an enormous corruptive power."

Duhalde arrived at the Jorge Newbery airport this morning, coming from Lima, where yesterday he met for 50 minutes with Peruvian President Alan Garcia to whom "President Carlos Menem sent a fraternal embrace."

In Lima, where he stayed a little less than 12 hours, the vice president gave a speech at the "International Press Forum on Terrorism and Drug Trafficking" and made a good impression on the more than 150 journalists from 40 countries who listened to him. [passage omitted]

Border Police Seize Drugs, Arrest Traffickers

PY0412221589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1305 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires 2 Dec (TELAM)—The National Border Police, headquartered in the northwestern sector of Argentina, have released a report stating that their personnel have seized cocaine, marijuana, coca leaves, and other psychotropic substances, and have arrested seven drug traffickers during several operations.

The report adds that personnel from the 20th Oran Squad, which is headquartered in Salta Province, seized 1,400 kg of pure cocaine and arrested a Bolivian citizen while checking the passengers of a bus that was heading from Tartagal to the capital of the Tucuman Province.

Personnel from the 27th Punta de Vacas Squad, which is headquartered in Mendoza Province, have arrested two Uruguayan female drug traffickers who were carrying 100 kg of marijuana and 781 marijuana seeds.

During other operations, personnel of the La Quiaca and Oran Squads, headquartered in Jujuy and Salta Provinces respectively, have detained 3 drug traffickers who tried to smuggle packages containing 410 kg of coca leaves into the country.

Finally, personnel of the 20th Pocitos department, which is headquartered in Salta Province, have arrested an individual at the Salta bus terminal and confiscated 3 packages that he was suspiciously mailing.

With legal authorization, the police opened the packages and found Argentine psychotropic substances that are sold under doctors' prescription. These substances were labeled for delivery to the Bolivian town of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

Bolivia

La Paz Town Council To Decide Mayoral Race

PY0412204089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0845 GMT 4 Dec 89

[By Agustin de Gracia]

[Text] La Paz, 4 Dec (EFE)—The political negotiations that resulted in Jaime Paz Zamora's installation as president of the Republic will take place again in the coming weeks to decide who will be installed as mayor of La Paz.

The municipal elections held yesterday did not clearly indicate who will be the mayor of the country's biggest city, where the candidates of the new populist political groups and those of the traditional parties received approximately the same number of votes.

According to unofficial returns released by private television channels, which in previous elections have proven to be very similar to those of the National Electoral Court, Carlos Palenque, a 45-year-old radio and television businessman and the leader of the Conscience of the Fatherland (Condepa), has received most of the votes.

Palenque received 39.9 percent of votes cast in La Paz, thereby giving Condepa 5 of the 13 seats on the town council, which will elect the mayor of La Paz on 2 January.

The alliance of the right-wing Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN) and the social democratic Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) has also won five town council seats.

Ronald MacLean, 40, of Scottish ancestry, and the mayoral candidate of the ADN-MIR alliance, has obtained 36.8 percent of the votes in La Paz, where he has been the mayor since 1985.

Far behind were the former administration's party, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR), which received (?two) seats, and the populist Solidarity Civic Union (UCS), led by brewery owner Max Fernandez, with one town council seat.

The decision as to who will be the new La Paz mayor on 2 January is now in the hands of the MNR, but its leaders declined to comment on their position last night.

Gonzalo Sanchez de Losada, the leader of the MNR, said last night on television: "We must be extremely serious in searching for a solution to this problem, or the people will turn their backs on populism."

He said his decision will be "a Christmas present." He insisted, however, that in his opinion the governing ADN-MIR alliance "will easily fix things between them" because "they are two of a kind."

Although the MNR was the party to receive most of the votes in the 7 May presidential elections, it was because of an alliance between two old political enemies—the ADN and MIR—that Jaime Paz Zamora, who had come in third in the elections, was installed as president of the Republic. "If we applied this same rule to the current problem," Sanchez de Losada said jokingly, "Guido Capra (MNR candidate for mayor of La Paz) would be elected."

Sanchez de Losada pointed out that Palenque was one of the supporters of the ADN-MIR governing alliance, which prevented Sanchez de Losada from becoming president.

According to the opposition, Palenque's party gained the La Paz Development Corporation (Cordepaz) and "half a ministry" (referring to the Communications and Transportation Ministry) as a result of the alliance. Sanchez de Losada warned the Bolivian politicians that Palenque's populist group, which is growing very fast, has its eyes set "on the 1993 presidential elections, not only on the La Paz mayoralty."

While respect was shown toward Ronald MacLean, the candidate most criticized by the MNR during the municipal elections campaign was Palenque.

Palenque stated, however, that the councilmen, who on 2 January will elect the next mayor of La Paz, must "respect the will of the majority."

"We hope that there will be no negotiation (among parties) and that the desire of the majority will be respected," Palenque stated. He is well known, especially because of the beard he wears, which makes him look very much like former U.S. President Abraham Lincoln.

Palenque, who is certain of the support he will receive from the only UCS councilman in La Paz, fears that a pact between the ADN-MIR coalition and the MNR will prevent him from obtaining the mayoralty of the most important city in the country.

Such an alliance, however, with a greater ideological basis than any other, will have to overcome the grudge that the MNR bears because the ADN and MIR "had stolen from it" the presidency of the Republic during the last elections, according to commentators.

"We are going to be very responsible, and we are not going to be motivated by personal interests or by any vengeance," Sanchez de Losada stated, commenting on the negotiations that will take place to designate the mayor of La Paz.

As in La Paz, the government alliance will have to negotiate support in the other major Bolivian cities, where the coalition came in first but failed to win absolute majorities.

The only exception is Sucre, where the candidate of the United Left coalition, radio reporter Omar Montalvo, obtained 57.3 percent of the vote, which is sufficient to obtain the mayoralty.

The most outstanding points about the elections were the abstention of between 30 and 50 percent of the voters and the almost absolute normalcy during the elections.

The state of siege, decreed throughout the country on 15 November because of street confrontations caused by social disturbances, did not hamper the electoral process.

The traditional restrictions, however, affected traffic and hampered public transportation, keeping voters from casting their votes. The abstention was also caused by the weariness of the voters, who are voting for the fourth time in 4 years.

$70 Million IMF Loan, Economic Measures Noted

PY0412165389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0436 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] La Paz, 2 Dec (EFE)—The IMF has favorably assessed the government's efforts to strengthen the country's economy and has consequently granted Bolivia a $70 million loan. This information was reported by Planning Minister Enrique Garcia, who also said that the IMF directorate gathered in Washington had praised the policies of Jaime Paz Zamora's administration toward consolidating the current economic model by adopting a responsible and coherent program.

The loan is intended to support the second phase of the structural adjustment program that the government and the IMF agreed on in September 1988 [as received]. According to some economic experts, this program will cause some adverse social effects.

Minister Garcia affirmed that the IMF will disburse $35 million of the freely disposable credit by 15 December and the remaining $35 million by March 1990. Bolivia, in a letter of intent signed with the IMF this past September, has committed itself to adopting several measures aimed at consolidating its economic model.

The Paz Zamora government is committed to reducing expenditures budgeted for 1989, curbing public spending, slimming down the public servant workforce, boosting personal income tax and customs duty collection, and keeping salaries frozen. The program also calls for minidevaluations of the Bolivian peso, increases in fuel prices and public utility rates in pace with the valuation of the dollar, political-administrative decentralization, reductions in the number of deficit-carrying public enterprises, and modernization of the state apparatus.

The planning minister explained that the government will make announcements throughout December on the new economic measures to be implemented.

According to Rolando Morales, former president of the Bolivian Economic Sciences Association, the second phase of the IMF program will have serious social effects since it is oriented toward curbing inflation by slowing down economic growth. The accumulated inflation rate from January through November of this year was up to 14.3 percent, surpassing the annual 10-percent rate set by the IMF.

Under the IMF-imposed economic measures that went into effect in 1988, Morales said, unemployment has affected 25 percent of the economically active population and salaries have lost about 37 percent of their buying power.

Chile

Cabinet Reshuffle Possible After Bank Changes

PY0512132089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Relay by Graciela Contreras from La Moneda Palace]

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet might reshuffle the Cabinet on 6 December in the wake of Finance Minister Enrique Seguel's designation as Central Bank executive board member.

Under the terms of the Central Bank organizational charter, the president, with the support of the government junta members, named (Andres Bianchi) Central Bank president. Juan Eduardo Herrera, Enrique Seguel, (Roberto Saller), and Alfonso Serrano were named Central Bank directors. This information has been supplied by Cristian Labbe, minister secretary general of government.

Labbe added that the government named the Central Bank executive board members in compliance with its obligation to consolidate the institutionalization process, preserving the independence and autonomy of the Central Bank. The bank's main duty is to preserve the stability of the currency and the normal payment of internal and external obligations.

It was reported that the five Central Bank directors will serve 10-year terms and will be (?gradually) replaced, one every 2 years. [sentence as heard] The new Central Bank board of directors will begin operating on 9 December.

Foreign Minister Criticizes 'Antique' Castro

PY0512141289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz has said that Fidel Castro is an antique outside the course of history. The minister added that, in his lengthy and unacceptable interventionist career, Castro has lost his way.

Errazuriz thus alluded to remarks by the Cuban dictator, who offered to mediate the Chilean-Bolivian problem involving Bolivia's landlocked status, provided that a leftist government succeeds the current Chilean administration.

[Begin Errazuriz recording] In the first place, this shows how deeply lost Castro is. Obviously, he has a long career of unacceptable intervention in Chilean and Bolivian affairs. It was Fidel Castro who sent Che Guevara and guerrillas in the 1960's. Later, he intervened in Chilean affairs by training guerrillas and sending weapons. Chileans know that he is not for democracy and freedom but for violence.

Fidel Castro is an antique. Fidel Castro is outside the course of history, and he has lost his way. We can say that he is not a valid interlocutor not only for Chilean international problems but—for that matter—for any Chilean problem. [end recording]

The foreign minister said: We categorically reject the remarks by Fidel Castro. We believe that the fact that he has friends in some parties of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy does not give him the right to comment on Chilean internal politics.

Ex-Presidents Carter, Ford Invited to Elections

PY0412155389 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Former U.S. Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford might come to Chile to observe the presidential and congressional elections on 14 December. This announcement was made by PPD [Party for Democracy] Secretary General Jorge Schaulsohn, who also said that a delegation of Democratic and Republican U.S. senators might visit our country. He noted that Carter and Ford have not yet confirmed their trip to Chile:

[Begin Schaulsohn recording] We will inform the media when we receive an answer, either affirmative or negative, from Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford regarding their trip to Chile. [end recording]

Schaulsohn criticized the position of Interior Minister Carlos Caceres, who said that the government will not accept foreign interference in the upcoming presidential elections. He then indicated that the Coalition of Parties for Democracy is negotiating at the highest level to obtain permission for foreign observers to come to Chile to observe the balloting.

Colombia

Presidential Hopefuls Reject Extradition Decision

PA0512042189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] The presidential hopefuls have issued their views on the controversial decision adopted by the lower chamber while political rallies and speeches continued throughout the country.

Presidential hopeful Hernando Duran Dussan is quickly recovering [as heard]. and he will soon return to the campaign trail. Meanwhile, his debate officials have continued the presidential campaign throughout Colombia. The main issue in the presidential hopefuls' speeches this weekend was, obviously, the extradition topic in the referendum.

Jaime Castro said that the extradition has destroyed the reforms because it proves that there are no political or public conditions that allow a normal voting process.

Cesar Gaviria went to Cucuta, where he said the parliamentary members' decision was inconvenient because the people cannot participate in elections in an atmosphere of intimidation and terror. Gaviria said that extradition is punishment and not the cause of our current violence.

William Jaramillo said that it is not worthwhile to vote on the reforms, not even for the sake of discipline. He said that extradition is a submarine that has sunk the reforms.

Ernesto Samper visited Boyaca and Santander. He advocates including the extradition in the referendum, but he asked the parliamentary members to vote wisely.

Presidential hopeful Gabriel Melo Guevara has yet to give his views on the issue, but he has already begun his Christmas political campaign with a march of torches and buses, symbolizing the passage from pessimism to optimism, and the generational renewal which the country needs to correct the mistakes incurred by other people.

Candidate Rodrigo Lloreda has officially begun his campaign in Cali. A motorcade of trucks, buses, motorcycles, and pedestrians accompanied him throughout the city until he arrived at the San Francisco square where the crowd cheered him. Lloreda demanded the strengthening of justice to prevent the extradition, which is not exactly a popular measure. He blamed the government for what is taking place and for turning the referendum into something being ridiculed.

Paraguay

President Rodriguez Says Country Totally Calm

PY0112163689 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez has made some categorical statements regarding alleged instability in face of the upcoming Colorado Party convention.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Will the troops remain in barracks this weekend because of the party convention?

[Rodriguez] No, there is no danger, no risk of that, gentlemen. I tell you that our country lives in peace because the Armed Forces guarantee the peace and calm in the Republic of Paraguay. You can be sure of that. I will be the first one to be sacrificed if any unit under my command ever creates unrest in the country. Such rumors are.... [changes thought] I do not know where these rumors come from. There is no need for the troops

to remain in their barracks. You may be sure that the national Armed Forces are currently guaranteeing peace and calm for the Republic. I wish that the civilian authorities would behave like us and also help guard the peace and calm of the Republic. [end recording]

Controversy Surrounds Colorado Party Convention

Orthodox Faction Calls Meeting

PY0112211489 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 2020 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Live relay by unidentified reporter from Colorado Party headquarters in Asuncion]

[Text] Juan Ramon Chaves [Colorado Party Executive Board chairman] has just arrived at Colorado Party headquarters. Let's listen to what he is saying:

[Chaves, in progress] ...Colorados, we will comply with our historical mission of serving as instruments of democracy and supporters of President Rodriguez. Tomorrow at 0730 all of us conventioneers will meet at km 5 to hold our convention. [cheers, applause]

We support freedom, decency, respect, and cooperation with the current administration, (?which was installed) under the traditional sector of the always glorious Colorado Party. [applause]

Colorado Party members, do not miss the convention. So far there are 900 Colorado Party conventioneers.... We will meet again tomorrow at km 5. [Words indistinct] authoritites of the great Colorado Party. [applause]

[Words indistinct] the courts and the political sector at km 5. [applause]

Judge Suspends Convention

PY0112201089 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 1 Dec 89 p 10

[Text] Shortly before noon today, Lower Court Judge Alicia Pucheta de Correa decided to suspend the Colorado Party [ANR] convention scheduled for tomorrow, 2 December. This urgent measure was taken after a petition for a court injunction was filed by members of Colorado Party Precinct No 9.

The petition was filed by Attorney Florentin Lopez Caceres and Albino Moreno Guppy on behalf of Sebastian Portillo Irala, Pedro Hector Viedma, Maria Simeona Silva de Portillo, and Virgilio Mendoza Bernal.

The petition states: "My clients, who are all members of the ANR—attached are photocopies of their party cards—and leaders of ANR Precinct No 9 are filing this petition, specifically against the ANR Executive Board."

The petition goes on to say that the plaintiffs have learned about the "call for the convention. We have also heard about the heated discussions prior to the convention through the media, especially through the official announcement published in PATRIA, the official mouthpiece of the ANR, and we are aware that the ANR is an association of free men and a powerful political organization. Therefore, the purpose of this petition is to annul the second point of the order of the day that refers to the reorganization of the honorable ANR Executive Board."

Regarding the judge's ruling, it should be noted that it has called for the two parties to meet at 1000 tomorrow in order to seek a reconciliation. The convention may be held if an agreement is reached and the judge decides to issue orders to that affect.

Moreover, the petition will continue in force until a decision is made, should the two parties fail to reach an agreement.

Further on in the petition the plaintiffs maintain that "the ANR is a political organization with legal status, recognized by an executive branch decree that also approved the pertinent statutes."

"We are aware that any association is ruled by established rules and that the judicial branch has the authority to intervene in cases related to an association if all other resources have been exhausted."

The petition concludes with a reference to the reorganization of the ANR Executive Board, noting that this can only be accomplished by decree, as is clearly established by the Civil Code.

Chaves Informed of Court Ruling

PY0212153089 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 2 Dec 89 p 7

[Text] A group of members of the "democratic" Colorado faction, headed by their top leaders and supported by numerous conventioneers, met in front of the Colorado Party headquarters shortly after Juan Ramon Chaves [president of the Colorado Party Executive Board] publicly defied the court decision to suspend the party convention.

When they arrived at the party headquarters, a large group of members of the "orthodox" Colorado faction was already blocking the entrance stairway. Harsh words were exchanged and even some pushing went on before "the democrats were able to enter the patio of the Colorado people."

Interior Ministry Under Secretary Hugo Estigarribia yesterday said that if the ANR convention is held it would mean "defying a court ruling."

Estigarribia went to the Colorado Party headquarters to inform Chaves that a court order had been issued suspending the extraordinary convention.

The under secretary said that "Chaves listened to what I had to say, and then thanked me for personally informing him about the resolution and promised it would be respected."

After the interview with Estigarribia, Chaves once again told the media that the convention would be held as scheduled. In this regard Estigarribia said: "I do not think they will, but if they do hold the convention it would mean openly defying a court ruling."

The members of the "democratic faction" arrived at the party headquarters shortly after Estigarribia left the building. After some pushing and even a few isolated fistfights, the democrats broke the cordon formed by members of the traditional orthodox faction at the entrance.

The traditional orthodox mingled with the demonstrators and tried to prevent the "democrats" from making any speeches. The "democrats" then left for Uruguay Plaza, where they held their meeting.

Convention Reportedly To Continue

PY0212135689 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1140 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Live report from Asuncion with impromptu new conference by Dr Angel Roberto Seifart, a leader of the "orthodox faction" of the Colorado Party]

[Text] We are following step by step the events leading to the Colorado Party special convention called by the orthodox faction of the party despite two court injunctions issued yesterday following the request filed by the democratic faction. Let's go to the National Sports Council auditorium, where Felix Ferreira will report.

[Ferreira] Thank you very much. We are here at the National Sports Council auditorium, where the Colorado Party convention delegates and officials are awaiting the return of Dr Juan Ramon Chaves, who at this time is at the Palace of Justice trying to lift the injunction banning the convention. It is 0820 now and, with Freddy Santander's help, we will approach Dr Angel Roberto Seifart, who is talking to the press.

[Reporter] What can you say about the recognition of the delegates' power of attorney? It has been charged that it can't be so.

[Seifart] All the power-of-attorney affidavits that are or have been presented to the Affidavits Reception Committee go into a folder, divided according to party chapters, so that the Affidavits Recognition Committee that is to be created after the convention is installed can examine them and determine their validity. It not true that some affidavits have been rejected. The credentials being issued by the Affidavits Reception Committee are provisional, because the Affidavits Recognition Committee will finally decide on those power-of-attorney affidavits that are liable to being questioned.

[Reporter] Which committee will issue the authentic credentials if those now being issued are provisional?

[Seifart] The Affidavits Recognition Committee is to be designated by the convention president once the convention begins. That Committee should be made up of representatives of both factions. It will examine the questionable power-of-attorney affidavits by comparing the signatures on them with those on the party chapter's signatures registration book.

[Reporter] What do you have to say about the presence of Dr Ynsfran here?

[Seifart] It is all right. He has the right to attend. I have been told that he will submit a list to the convention. Any group of Colorados has a right to submit a list for the party governing board.

[Reporter] How many lists? Is Ynsfran's name excluded?

[Seifart] No, no. Hasn't our list already been released? Don't you know our list?

[Reporter] Only one list has been released so far, right?

[Seifart] So far the list of the Colorado traditionalist movement has been released.

[Reporter] Exactly. Is it the list of Dr Ynsfran?

[Seifart] That is rumored, but I really don't know.

[Reporter] Are you going to wait here for Dr Chaves to return?

[Seifart] Well, he declared this meeting in recess until 1600 this afternoon. But the people do not want to leave. So we will be here. Those who want to go to lunch might go out and then come back in time for the resumption of the meeting.

[Reporter] How will the convention proceed, doctor?

[Seifart] What do you mean?

[Reporter] How will it be held, what would be...

[Seifart, interrupting] It will be held as per the convention call and the party statutes.

[Reporter] After the national anthem is sung, what will you do next?

[Seifart] After the ceremonial rites, the current president of the party government board, Dr Chaves, will assume the provisional presidency of the convention. Then he will designate two provisional secretaries and the Affidavits Recognition Committee, to which all the documents will be handed over so that it can make the final decision on the questionable affidavits. Once the convention is resumed, the list of convention delegates whose credentials have been approved will be read aloud; the rejected provisional credentials will be announced; and the convention will be definitively installed. The convention president will then be elected, and he will designate the convention secretaries. The debate of the order of the day will then take place.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

Judge Upholds Suspension

PY0412125389 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] Yesterday morning Judge Alicia Pucheta Correa signed the decision to uphold the writ of amparo calling for the suspension of the extraordinary convention of the Colorado Party, as requested by the democratic faction of the Colorado Party. The orthodox faction of the party disobeyed the ruling; consequently, the ruling considers the convention held on 2 December null and void and without any legal standing. It is believed that the appropriate criminal court will investigate the matter and order the arrest of those who urged Colorado Party members to disobey the court ruling. Meetings of the old and new Colorado Party executive boards have been called for today.

Judge Pucheta Correa has reported that, since she suspended the convention, she has been receiving death threats over the phone until the early hours of the morning. "They have not let me sleep during the past few days, but all the inconvenience has only strengthened my willingness to work for justice. At this time we cannot give up our ideals of justice," the judge said. Politicians and lawyers have labeled the judge's position as courageous. The Colorado Party crisis is the main topic of discussion throughout the country.

Argana: 'Convention Will Be Held'

PY0212150089 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1240 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Report from the auditorium of the National Sports Council by Felix Ferreira—live]

[Excerpt] [Ferreira] Colorado Party Vice President Luis Maria Argana [and Paraguayan foreign minister] is addressing the crowd gathered at the auditorium of the National Sports Council.

[Argana] This unconstitutional and arbitrary ruling must be revoked. In any case this convention will be held because the will of the Colorado Party people cannot be betrayed. [applause, shouts of "very good," and "that is right"]

Therefore, we must all remain here because at 1600 this afternoon we will hold the convention. We will appoint the new party executive board, and we will amend our statutes. If they [the democratic faction] do not like it, they can go complain to their grandmothers. [shouts]

[Ferreira] That was Colorado Party Vice President Luis Maria Argana addressing his fellow party members. At this point he is thanking some party members who are around him. They have picked him up on their shoulders. We will now try to talk to him. Dr Argana, there is talk that the court ruling has been lifted?

[Argana] Not yet.

[Ferreira] All right, not yet. Dr Argana, if this convention takes place anyway, will it be legal, taking into account that there is a court ruling against it?

[Argana] It will be legal, and it will be up to the opponents to take the steps provided by the law to try dispute its validity.

[Ferreira] Could the judge seek the assistance of the police to suspend the convention?

[Argana] The police will not do anything like that because the police have been instructed not to do anything against the Colorado people.

[Ferreira] Dr Argana, will the convention start as soon as Dr Juan Ramon Chaves straightens things out at the Palace of Justice?

[Argana] I was working with Dr Chaves until a short while ago. At 1000, Chaves will go to court with the lawyers Moreno Ruffinelli and Juan Manuel Morales. After that we will have some news for you.

[Ferreira] Thank you, sir. That was Dr Luis Maria Argana, vice president of the Colorado Party executive board. We will now try to get in touch with our colleague of the newspaper EL DIARIO. We know that...

[Argana, interrupting]...there are 901 conventioneers here. We have an absolute majority. We have more than the required two-thirds. You can see for yourselves. Here is the list. This means that the will of the Colorado people is fully represented here. Anything that could be done against their will would be unfair. It would be tantamount to fraud against the Colorado people and against democracy, against the effort to organize the rank and file organizations of the Colorado party, to organize a political party democratically and with popular participation. To hamper the organization of a political party is to oppose republican and representative democracy.

[Ferreira] We just heard Dr Argana explaining his view of the extent to which the Colorado Party is represented here. [passage omitted]

Chaves Calls Session

PY0212154089 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1446 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Address by Juan Ramon Chaves, president of the Colorado Party Executive Board and a leader of the "orthodox" Colorado faction, to Colorado party members at the National Sport Council Auditorium in Asuncion—live]

[Text] On this exciting day I have the great pleasure of cordially greeting all the convention delegates who have shown up, leaving their farms and work to discharge a civic Colorado duty of high patriotic significance. [applause]

We are confronting a judicial problem over this convention. Two lower court judges have decided to turn down the petition filed by the MOPCCO [Colorado Popular Movement, most of whose members now belong to the "democratic" Colorado faction] to suspend the convention. [Shouts, applause]. This morning a lady judge upheld the decision suspending this convention, but our lawyers appealed her ruling.

While the final decision on this judicial issue is awaited, I announce that this convention is called to session to solve this problem [applause] at 1600 or 1630 this afternoon. We would like to hear the opinion of all the delegates on whether they agree that this convention should be opened today. [shouts, applause]

I will be here at 1600 this afternoon. I then will designate two convention delegates to open the convention. I ask for your patience and valor. We all agree that we must continue building this nation with all the Colorado people under the banner of the great National Republican Association. [applause]

We will again be with you this afternoon at 1600. Meantime, the delegates are invited to a banquet—a picnic for you brave farmers and convention delegates. [shouts, applause]

Democratic Faction Comments

PY0212171089 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Report by Maria Luisa Ferreira from Colorado Party democratic faction meeting at Colorado Party Precinct 24 in Asuncion—live]

[Excerpt] [Ferreira] Here at Colorado Party Precinct 24, Blas N. Riquelme [leader of the Colorado democratic faction] is saying a few words to end this meeting of members of the Colorado Party democratic faction. Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca [prominent member of the democratic faction] is referring to the court decision to ratify its ruling suspending the extraordinary convention.

[Gonzalez] I have just learned that Lower Court Judge Pucheta de Correa has decided to ratify her precautionary decision to suspend the convention until a decision is reached regarding the request filed for a court injunction. We believe that she has made the right decision and this obviously confirms that the extraordinary convention summoned for today did not meet the necessary legal requirements. The court decision, I think, confirms the fair and democratic stance of the Colorado democratic faction at this moment.

[Ferreira] Carlos Romero Pereira [prominent member of the democratic faction] has learned about the statement made by Juan Ramon Chaves [president of the Colorado Party executive board]. What do you have to say about his statements?

[Pereira] They obviously reflect the failure of the call for a convention, because Chaves said that the judge has ratified her ruling and later on, according to information we have at hand, he asked the conventioneers in general whether they thought they could meet this afternoon at around 1600 or 1630. Luis Maria Argana [vice president of the Colorado Party ANR executive board], in turn, said that Chaves made that announcement. In other words, it is not the party that is inviting members to continue the meeting. It looks as if they are trying to get Chaves to assume this responsibility alone. In other words, they are obviously isolating the Colorado president because they realize that the ship is sinking and they are starting to abandon it. I believe they are admitting they have failed and have acted erroneously. In other words, I believe this is a great victory for us.

[Ferreira] What are you going to do now? Are you going to have lunch at some restaurant?

[Pereira] No. We are probably going to Los Alamos, where fellow partisans are gathering. I believe we are going to summon the Colorado Party Executive Board to discuss the political crisis at 1700 on Monday, 4 December. [passage omitted]

Special Convention Opens

PY0212193689 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Live relay from the National Sports Council Stadium in Asuncion]

[Excerpt] We are relaying this report from the National Sports Council Stadium, where the traditionalist orthodox faction of the Colorado Party began its special convention exactly 8 minutes ago. It should be noted that Judge Lidia Pucheta de Correa has ordered the suspension of the special convention following a writ of amparo filed by a group of Colorado Party members.

Party President Juan Ramon Chaves this morning reported that the special convention was to be held at 1600 or 1630 and that it will be the convention delegates who will decide whether to hold the convention, taking into account the judge's decision.

Surprisingly enough, at 1555 Dr Juan Ramon Chaves addressed the convention delegates of the traditionalist orthodox movement—also known as the hardliners—and told them that, considering that the judge's decision was in force, it was up to the delegates to decide whether to hold the special convention. The unanimous answer was in favor of holding the convention.

Consequently, in compliance with Article 8 of the Colorado Party bylaws, Chaves designated two secretaries, one of whom is Mrs Ramona de Rojas. Article 8 states that the convention will be installed with the absolute majority of the delegates designated by the party branches and under the provisional direction of the party executive board president, with the help of two delegates.

We should report that there are 1,088 delegates at the convention. [passage omitted]

Chaves Speaks at Opening

PY0212195189 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1850 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Live report on speech by Juan Ramon Chaves, president of the Colorado Party Executive Board and a leader of the "orthodox" Colorado faction, to supporters at the National Sports Council Stadium in Asuncion on 2 December, by unidentified reporter; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Chaves] ...establish the legal quorum, I again inform the conventioneers that two lower court judges have decided to turn down the petition to suspend this convention, but a female judge has upheld the decision to suspend the convention. Our lawyers have appealed this court ruling.

In view of this emergency, I want to ask whether you conventioneers, who are the deciding body of this convention, want to hold this convention. [applause, cheers]

[Reporter] All of the conventioneers are on their feet. They are requesting to hold the convention by acclamation.

[Chaves] I hereby open the preliminary session of this convention. In keeping with Article No 7 of the party statutes, I appoint Ramona Francisca de Rojas and (?Eugenio Loizaga) as secretaries of the convention. [applause] They will assume their duties shortly.

Now we will begin to read the list of conventioneers. Some conventioneers may not be here, and they will be declared absent. However, this can be corrected later if the person in question appears before the convention. [Chaves ends]

[Reporter] Juan Ramon Chaves has thus opened the preliminary session of this convention. Despite everything that has been said and the court ruling to suspend it, the convention has been officially begun with the appointment of the two secretaries.

Wrapup of 'Extraordinary' Convention

PY0312233089 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 3 Dec 89 p 4

[Excerpt] The "orthodox traditionalist" faction of the Colorado Party held its extraordinary convention yesterday despite a court order forbidding it. A new executive board was elected by acclamation. Edgar L. Ynsfran was not included on the ticket. The convention also modified some party regulations.

The Colorado Party "orthodox traditionalist" faction elected a new Colorado Party executive board at an extraordinary party convention despite a court order forbidding the event.

The leadership of the new executive board that was acclaimed yesterday includes Juan Ramon Chaves as president, and Juan Manuel Cano Melgarejo, Angel Roberto Seifart, and Agustin Gonzalez Insfran as vice presidents.

The more than 900 accredited delegates also approved the modification of party regulations according to a proposal presented by the "orthodox" members. Some delegates tried to amend parts of the proposal but were not successful.

The climate throughout the day was tense at the National Sports Council Stadium because of the uncertainty stemming from the court order forbidding the event.

After the attempts by the "orthodox" leadership to get the court to review the order suspending the event failed, Chaves walked to the podium and asked the accredited delegates if they wanted to hold the extraordinary convention. When the delegates present cheered in the affirmative—at exactly 1550—Chaves announced that the "traditionalist orthodox" convention was then going to proceed.

Seifart later asked Notary Public Carlos Alfieri to record that the convention was being held by the free and spontaneous decision of the absolute majority of the conventioneers. The notary tried to get all delegates to sign the document but abandoned the idea after some delegates refused. The document was signed instead by delegates Jose del Pilar Osorio and Julian Doncell on behalf of all convention delegates.

At 1630, a police officer brought a note from Police Chief Francisco Sanchez notifying the convention authorities that Judge Alicia Pucheta had dismissed the request to review the order suspending the event.

Juan Ramon Chaves, however, proceeded to designate an accreditation board comprised of Juan Crisostomo Gaona, Fulgencio Miranda, Arsenio Falcon Real, Miguel Ortiz Pierpaoli, and Carlos Paredes, who spent 3 hours certifying the delegates accreditations.

The convention was formally installed after the board certified all party precinct documents naming their delegates. The convention then elected Deputy Ruben O. Fanego as convention president, and Juan Crisostomo Gaona and Avelino Gaona as convention secretaries.

The convention then discussed the first item on the agenda and approved the reform of party regulations. Some delegates opposed the reform of some articles but could not block approval.

The second article of the reform proposal—calling for a system for the election of the executive board—faced the most resistance because many delegates asked for the direct election of executive members. They could not, however, muster enough support to modify the proposal.

The second point on the agenda established the election of a new executive board. Two tickets were presented,

both headed by Juan Ramon Chaves. The "orthodox" leadership presented one of the tickets. The other was presented by Ynsfran followers because the former interior minister was not included on the "orthodox" list.

After many members of the second ticket announced that they had not been consulted, however, Ynsfran stood up to say that he had not been consulted either and agreed to withdraw his nomination because he needed a rest. Ynsfran has been relentlessly attacked for his past record in the government.

President-elect Chaves called the new executive board to a special session tomorrow at 1700.

The Colorado Party traditionalist faction executive board leadership is as follows:
Juan Ramon Chaves, president.
Juan Manuel Cano Melgarejo, vice president.
Angel Roberto Seifart, vice president.
Agustin Gonzalez Insfran, vice president.
Juan Roque Galeano, secretary.
Ruben O. Fanego, secretary.
Emilio Pallarolas, secretary.
Juan Esteche Fanego, treasurer.
Arsenio Falcon Real, deputy treasurer. [passage ommited]

New Board Elected

PY0412152589 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish
4 Dec 89 p 7

[List of the Government junta members elected during the Colorado Party orthodox faction's extraordinary convention held in Asuncion on 2 and 3 December 1989]

[Text]

Government Junta

Board of Directors
President: Juan Ramon Chaves
Vice President: Juan Manuel Cano Melgarejo
Vice President: Angel Roberto Seifart
Vice President: Agustin Gonzalez Insfran
Secretary: Juan Roque Galeano
Secretary: Ruben O. Fanego
Secretary: Emilio Pallarolas
Treasurer: Juan Esteche Fanego
Deputy Treasurer: Arsenio Falcon Real

Members of the Government Junta of the National Republican Association (Colorado Party)
1. Juan Ramon Chaves
2. Luis Maria Argana
3. Juan Manuel Cano Melgarejo
4. Angel Roberto Seifart
5. Dionisio Gonzalez Torres
6. Pedro Hugo Pena
7. Ruben Stanley
8. Juan Roque Galeano
9. Juan Manuel Frutos
10. Juan Esteche Fanego
11. Agustin Gonzalez Insfran
12. Carlos A. Saldivar
13. Jose Antonio Moreno Ruffinelli
14. Jose D. Ovelar
15. Mrs Marina Aquino Ortiz
16. Hipolito Mendoza
17. Federico A. Zayas
18. Ruben O. Fanego
19. Oscar Facundo Ynsfran
20. Jose Luis Ibarra
21. Juan Vicente Caballero
22. Manuel Maria Lezcano G.
23. Julio Cesar Fanego
24. Juan Bautista Ibanez
25. Ignacio E. Samaniego
26. Samuel Ramirez
27. Juan Crisostomo Gaona V.
28. Juan Manuel Morales
29. Genaro Sanchez
30. Efrain Enriquez Gamon
31. Arsenio Falcon Real
32. Fernando Martinez
33. Mrs Dorila Migdalia Rodriguez Garcia
34. Julian Doncel V.
35. Martin Valiente Gomez
36. Mrs Florinda Matilde Arce Paez (Concepcion Department)
37. Erico Ibanez (San Pedro Department)
38. Francisco Zichner (Cordillera Department)
39. Vidal Rolon Sanabria (Guaira Department)
40. Sindulfo Benitez (Caaguazu Department)
41. Jose Maria Sarubbi Lepretti (Caazapa Department)
42. Lorenzo Zacarias (Itapua Department)
43. Carlos Otto Gernhoffer (Misiones Department)
44. Pedro Julio Bogarin (Paraguari Department)
45. Benito Ovelar (Alto Parana Department)
46. Emilio Pallarolas (Central Department)
47. Jose Maria Bottino Avelo (Neembucu Department)
48. Avelino Ramirez Ruiz (Amambay Department)
49. Agapito Ferreira (Canindeyu Department)
50. Francisco Diego Diaz Calderara (Alto Paraguay Department)
51. Mario Rodolfo Meza (Lower Chaco)

Alternate Members:
1. Lorenzo Garbett
2. Jose Alberto Alderete Rodriguez
3. Cornelio Caballero
4. Jesus Fulgencio Miranda
5. Luis Gonzalez Macchi
6. Artemio Castillo Gamarra
7. Victor Hugo Sanchez
8. Jose Maria Delgado
9. Cristina Solana Munoz
10. Sisinio Vera
11. Adrian Gill Avalos
12. Vidal Flor Jara
13. Antonia Ovando Galeano
14. Marcelino Alfonso Gonzalez
15. Walter Bower M.
16. Luis Castiglioni

17. Atanasio Belotto Vouga
18. Pulciano Cabral (Concepcion Department)
19. Idilio Castiglioni (San Pedro Department)
20. Pablo Cabral (Guaira Department)
21. Jose Gabriel Martinez (Guaira Department)
22. Luis Perruchino (Caaguazu Department)
23. Carlos Anibal Paez (Caazapa Department)
24. Dario Palacios (Itapua Department)
25. Tomas Quinonez (Misiones Department)
26. Enrique Gonzalez Quintana (Paraguai Department)
27. Guillermo Campuzano (Alto Parana Department)
28. Fulgencio Gonzalez M. (Central Department)
29. Eudoro Caceres (Neembucu Department)
30. Vidal Menesses (Amambay Department)
31. Juan Pio Ramirez (Canindeyu Department)
32. Felix Dick Torres (Alto Paraguay Department)
33. Ignacio Articanaba (Lower Chaco)

President Rodriguez Considering Cabinet Reshuffle

PY0512121489 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 5 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez did not rule out the possibility of reshuffling his Cabinet. "Give me a few minutes, hours, or days to think about it; we will do what is really convenient for the country," he responded to a question about the removal—as a result of the latest political events—of Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana, Minister Without Portfolio Juan Ramon Chavez, and Education and Worship Minister Dionisio Gonzalez Torres—who is thought to be removed to become president of the Colorado Party.

"Excuse me for not expressing any opinion on politics, but I first want to become well acquainted with the subject before saying anything," General Rodriguez told reporters yesterday. He made this statement during a visit to the Paraguari military garrison, where early in the morning he attended a mass to commemorate Saint Barbara, patron of the artillery unit. Gen Rodriguez was accompanied by top-ranking Armed Forces members and military attaches from embassies.

"The military barracks do not belong to anyone but the people. The barracks are nothing but an extension of the people's homes," Gen Rodriguez said. He expressed his satisfaction over being present in the Paraguari military garrison on Saint Barbara's day, and over "observing its commanders' permanent concern about presenting an admirable garrison, respectful, and comfortable for those humble conscripts who come to serve from all corners of the Republic." Gen Rodriguez added: "These conscripts live here as in the peace of their homes, and I consider these barracks an extension of their homes."

Possible Replacements Mentioned

PY0412140789 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Dec 89 p 6

[Text] As a result of the crisis in the Colorado Party, President Rodriguez may have to replace several ministers. Three of them took part in the Colorado Party convention held by the party's orthodox faction last weekend despite the court ruling that ordered its suspension.

This disrespect for the court's decision has received serious criticism from several Colorado and opposition politicians, some of whom have said that this disrespectful attitude cannot be assumed by high-ranking members of the executive branch.

According to reliable sources, the ministers that will be appointed will be not only from the Colorado Party but also from some opposition parties—specifically, the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) and possibly the Febrerista Revolutionary Party (PRF). Rodriguez would thus be consolidating the process of democratic opening that began in the country with the 3 February coup d'etat that ousted Alfredo Stroessner, who had been in power for 35 years.

These reliable sources reported that one of the ministers to be replaced is Dr Luis Maria Argana, the current foreign minister and former Supreme Court chairman, who played an active role in the convention held by the Colorado Party's orthodox faction. Argana's dismissal would come as a result of this convention and of certain other attitudes inappropriate for a cabinet minister and a former member of the judicial branch.

We must remember that Argana favored holding the convention despite the court ruling and that, during the convention at the National Sports Council Stadium, the foreign minister emphatically stated: "The convention will be held; let them complain about it to their grandmothers."

According to our source, the following ministers will also presumably be replaced: Juan Ramon Chaves, minister without portfolio and president of the Colorado Party Executive Board, and Education and Worship Minister Dionisio Gonzalez Torres.

Gonzalez Torres, who was mentioned as a possible transitional president of the Colorado Party, has jurisdiction over the establishment where the convention took place. He was also on the orthodox faction's listing of Executive Board members that the convention finally elected.

Following are the names of people who may be chosen as ministers: Jose Felix Estigarriba [of the PLRA], who would be named foreign minister to replace Luis Maria Argana; Mrs Antonia Nunez Lopez will probably be named education and worship minister to replace Gozalez Torres; and Julio Cesar Frutos would be named minister without portfolio, replacing Juan Ramon

Chaves. When Fernandez Estigarribia and Nunez Lopez were consulted by this newspaper, they stressed that they did not know anything about the matter. We were unable to contact Frutos.

It has also been mentioned that Euclides Acevedo, president of the Febrerista Party, might also join the cabinet, but it has not been learned what position he will occupy.

'Formal Split' Marked in Colorado Party

PY0512153089 Asuncion ABC in Spanish 5 Dec 89 p 2

[Text] The installation of two Colorado Party executive boards marked the party's formal split, thus making the citizenry live through dramatic moments as it followed the party conflict on 4 December. The democratic faction of the Colorado Party yesterday occupied the party's headquarters by court order. The democratic members were then unable to leave party headquarters because members of the orthodox faction sealed and occupied all the exits. The democratic faction approved a new party executive board made up of a democratic majority, which includes Roque Jacinto Avila, who resigned his membership in the orthodox faction. Both the orthodox and democratic factions have expressed their support for the Rodriguez administration. In turn, the president of the Republic has not denied that he may reshuffle his cabinet as a result of the Colorado Party crisis. The police did not intervene in yesterday's conflict despite the danger of a serious clash between supporters of the two party factions.

The formal split of the Colorado Party took place yesterday when the two parallel party executive boards went to party headquarters to hold their respective meetings. One of the executive boards is made up of democratic faction members, in keeping with an agreement reached last March. The orthodox executive board was elected during a special party convention on 2 December.

The political conflict reached dangerous levels when supporters of the two factions nearly started a fight as orthodox members besieged the Colorado Party meeting hall while the democrats were meeting. The democratic faction members first occupied the assembly hall at about noon, and they were then besieged by orthodox faction members, who prevented them from leaving the place for 2 hours.

The democratic faction session, presided over by Blas N. Riquelme and protected by court order, gathered a legal quorum of 18 of the 35-member Colorado Party Executive Board, thanks to the presence of Roque Jacinto Avila, who resigned his membership in the orthodox faction. Avila proclaimed himself free and independent, and he joined the 17 other democratic members of the executive board. This allowed the session's participants to pass several resolutions, among them the presentation of a new list of candidates for the Central Electoral Court.

The democratic faction was in session from 1400 to 1615. During that time orthodox faction members occupied the exits of the party headquarters and engaged in a few scuffles which did not turn into anything worse. The democratic faction members tried to prevent orthodox members from breaking into the meeting hall, while the orthodox members wished to dislodge the democratic faction members to hold their own orthodox inaugural session.

Finally, the democratic faction members were able to leave the Colorado Party headquarters by a back staircase, with the protection and guarantees of a few orthodox faction leaders who offered to help prevent assaults.

The orthodox faction began its own meeting at 1930 in the main garden of the party headquarters, with Juan Ramon Chavez presiding. The orthodox leaders delivered passionate speeches, including those given by Juan Manuel Cano Melgarejo and Angel Roberto Seifart. Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana was notably absent from the session until 2040.

During this session, the orthodox faction decided to create a "civilian guard," whose mission will be to guard Colorado Party headquarters 24 hours a day. The faction also proposed to organize an orthodox rally for 17 December to demonstrate its drawing power.

Chavez called off the session at 2050, and the orthodox members left the site without causing any incidents.

SPP Repudiates Attacks on Journalists

PY0412191789 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 4 Dec 89 p 8

[Text] The Union of Journalists of Paraguay (SPP) has strongly repudiated the verbal and physical aggression against journalists, photographers, and cameramen by some participants of the Colorado Party convention that was held last Saturday.

The SPP document says: "This climate of open hostility against the press, seeking to cast doubt on the objectivity of newsmen, is being encouraged by the arrogant, arbitrary, and unbecoming attitude of high-ranking party leaders such as Luis Maria Argana and Angel Roberto Seifart."

Finally, the SPP reasserted that it is not willing to put up with this kind of aggression which hinders their members in their mission of informing the public.

Peru

Armed Forces Reject Amnesty International Report

PY0212015989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0519 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Lima, 29 Nov (EFE)—The Peruvian Defense Ministry today rejected an Amnesty International (AI)

report charging the Peruvian Armed Forces with adopting repressive methods similar to those used by the terrorist group Shining Path. In an official communique, the Ministry states that the antisubversive activities carried out by the Armed Forces "are in line with the Constitution and the law."

"The political-military commands are submitted to norms and control systems that supervise the actions of their members," the communique states. It adds: The AI report is "inadmissible and inexplicable" because it compares "the actions of the Armed Forces with the insane and criminal terrorist methods used by the Shining Path.'

The AI report, which was published by the Lima media, states that more than 3,000 people in custody "have disappeared in the last 7 years, while at least some 3,000 more have been killed in mass or individual executions performed by security forces."

Official figures indicate that the armed action started by the Shining Path in 1980 has resulted in 15,000 people being killed and $12 billion in material losses.

Ayacucho Municipal Elections Declared Void

PY0212115389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0050 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Lima, 1 Dec (EFE)—As all the votes were finally counted, it was reported today that the 12 November municipal elections in Ayacucho were declared void because of the large number of blank votes.

The Shining Path guerrilla group has asserted that its objective of "preventing the elections wherever possible" has been fulfilled. It added that, at least in Ayacucho, the political parties "were repudiated."

Carlos Castaneda Lafontaine, chairman of the National Electoral Court, did not discard the possibility of reconsidering the Huamanga Province (Ayacucho) Electoral Court decision to declare the elections void.

Castaneda confirmed that the Provincial Electoral Court of Ayacucho—a traditional Shining Path stronghold—decided to declare the elections void because the number of void and blank votes surpassed two-thirds of the total vote. He added, however, that "the last word has not been said yet."

In Ayacucho, 45 percent of the voters abstained from voting, although voting in Peru is mandatory, and the fines for not voting are very high. Furthermore, the military authorities who control the region, which has been under a state of emergency for eight years, intimidated the people and forced them to vote to prevent absenteeism.

The Shining Path exerted great pressure on the region, especially on Ayacucho—with much murder, sabotage, and propaganda—in an attempt to force a boycott of the elections. The pressure was so strong that, to counteract it, Peruvian President Alan Garcia traveled to Ayacucho on election day to encourage the people to vote.

According to the official vote count, 59.6 percent of all the ballots were declared void because they contained militant slogans and obscene phrases. Another 8.4 percent of the votes were blank, and only 32 percent were valid.

None of the candidates for mayor of Ayacucho could be declared the winner; the elections may have to be held again on 8 April, together with the general elections.

United Left candidate Luis Huayta obtained 23.7 percent of the votes, and Abraham Macizo, of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA), won 8.3 percent.

Almost 3 weeks after the election, there is still no official data on the vote returns in the interior of Ayacucho Department, or on returns in the two neighboring departments of Huancavelica and Apurimac, where the Shining Path is also very strong.

Terrorists Cause Blackouts in Ancash Department

PY0412153689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0153 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Huaraz, 2 Dec (EFE) —Terrorists have destroyed three high-tension towers causing blackouts in five provinces in the sierra region of Ancash Department, north of Lima. The towers were located in the Callejon de Huaylas, an important tourist zone.

Terrorists this evening also blew up a 40,000-liter gasoline tank truck at a site 16 km from Huaraz. The gasoline-laden truck was completely destroyed, and the damage is calculated at $400,000. The tank truck was blown up on a bridge, which was also damaged, restricting road traffic to and from Huaraz. The driver and his assistant were not hurt because they were ordered to leave the truck before it was blown up.

Uruguay

President-Elect Plans for Future Government

PY0212131289 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1534 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Montevideo, 30 Nov (AFP)—President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle of the traditional Blanco Party will begin a series of contacts on 4 December to create a coalition government, and he is not ruling out the participation of any political sector.

On 26 November, the Blanco Party easily defeated the ruling Colorado Party, while the leftist Broad Front coalition—which is made up of socialists, communists, independent sectors, and former Tupamaro guerrillas—won the strategic post of mayor of Montevideo for the first time in history.

In statements to the local press, Lacalle said that during the first four months of its term, the coalition government should approve a package of laws that will allow it to take all the necessary measures.

"I don't think it is necessary to eliminate anything, exclude anyone, or disqualify anyone beforehand," he said; adding, "Nor do I harbor the illusion that everyone will remain in the government."

The president-elect, who in the past few hours moved his headquarters to an old casino hotel near the coast, has confirmed that he will maintain—"at any cost"—the free exchange rate, the open market economy, and the free and unrestricted transfer of capital and profits.

Lacalle said that the current economic system will be preserved and promoted, because "we believe that it is the destiny of the Uruguayan economy in this environment."

He also asked for a "grace period" for his government, so that "as of 2 March I will not have to engage in labor or political confrontations." He said, however, that "the country wants a firm hand in the government."

"The opposition can react strongly because we will not propose lukewarm positions," Lacalle warned.

Concerning the leftist victory in the election for mayor of Montevideo, Lacalle said that it would be ideal if everyone "fulfilled his own duties, cooperating in those fields in which cooperation is feasible."

He added that "no one should expect to turn the municipal government of Montevideo into a state within a state, just as the government should not meddle with municipal affairs."

Lacalle said that "the country wants neither confrontation nor an abnormal growth of the municipal government's powers."

"They want garbage collected; they want the city cleaned; they want the city lit and the streets repaired," he said.

Vote Counts for Lacalle, Batlle, Seregni Listed

PY0112014889 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Blanco Party candidate Luis Alberto Lacalle, who was supported by 422,598 voters, received the greatest number of votes in the election. Broad Front candidate Liber Seregni and Colorado Party candidate Jorge Batlle won 408,786 and 277,656 votes, respectively.

Venezuela

Voter Absenteeism Marks Democratic Action Win

PA0512031489 Paris AFP in Spanish 2245 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Caracas, 4 Dec (AFP)—An overwhelming voter abstenteeism reaching 60 or perhaps 70 percent, plus the advancement of the left—especially that of steelworker Andres Velasquez, who won the governorship in the strategic State of Bolivar—marked the 4 December Venezuelan elections.

The ruling social democratic-leaning Democratic Action (AD) party retained the governorships of 12 of the 20 states, according to estimates.

On 3 December, for the first time, Venezuelans elected their state governors and 269 mayors by direct vote.

Although it won more states than the opposition, the AD lost the most important ones. Now there will be opposition governors in the vital States of Miranda (population equal to ½ that of Caracas), Aragua (military base of land and air units), Zulia (western petroleum), and Bolivar (basic industries: iron, steel, aluminum, diamonds, gold, and the largest electricity plant).

Velasquez, leader of the "R cause" (radical left), which controls the largest steelworkers union, was envisioned by the AD leaders as a "headache" for the system.

Only today, amid a tense climate and when hundreds of workers stopped working in Bolivar and gathered nervously in front of work centers and public buildings, did the AD admit the radical sector's victory.

Velasquez went to Caracas this afternoon where, after confirming his victory and then launching his candidacy for the 1993 presidential elections, he again spoke of the strategic nature of the companies administered in his zone by the Venezuelan Guayana Corporation (CVGN), saying that he will forcefully block any attempt to make the steel mills and aluminum plants privately owned.

His triumph accentuated the "mea culpa" of the AD leaders, who agreed that the disenchantment of the people was greater than their dismay at not achieving the long-awaited reforms offered. Governors, mayors, and councilmen were elected by direct vote and aldermen were elected from open lists.

For the opposition—Christian Democrats and Socialists—the abstenteeism was a "punishment vote" for AD, in light of the multimillionaire scandals of corruption that enveloped the former administration of Jaime Lusinchi (1984 - 1989) and the economic "shock" program of current President Carlos Andres Perez, a Social Democrat like his predecessor.

But the AD noted that the "punishment vote" affects all of them alike. Veteran leaders, such as former Christian Democratic Presidents Rafael Caldera, Luis Herrera

Campins, and Social Democrat Luis Pinerua, agreed that the rules of the game should change, with crystal clear and modern methods.

Suriname

Shankar Assesses Nation on Independence Day

FL2711220089 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] President Ramsewak Shankar has made an urgent call on the Surinamese people not to be incited by others against the government. The president made this call last Saturday in an address on the occasion of the 14th independence celebrations in Suriname. In the speech, the president talked about the development process in Suriname. According to him, international and national developments have weakened the economy in the last year. Shankar has, however, expressed the hope that the developments in the course of the 15th year of independence for Suriname will bring improvement to the economic situation. According to the Surinamese head of state, measures have been taken to guarantee (?aid) for the basic needs on a regular basis. The president further said that the government will not deviate from its [word indistinct] through actions by others. The president finally stated that the government has a strong belief and confidence in the Surinamese people.

Mercenaries Attack Military Barracks; Six Killed

FL0412192089 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] White mercenaries have this morning in an attack on the military barracks at (Kraka), about 70km southeast of Paramaribo, killed six soldiers from the National Army, four others were wounded, and six have been reported missing.

The mercenaries have also hijacked a bus with Suralco workers. The workers were forced to find a way back to the Suralco plant on foot.

Sources say that there were about 60 heavily armed English-speaking white men involved in the action. This was confirmed this morning by the presidential spokesperson.

Last Friday, a spokesman of the so-called jungle commando announced that more than 300 white mercenaries have joined the terrorist group. On Saturday last, (?thirty) mercenaries carried out an armed (?raid) of Victoria and [words indistinct] the company of a number of consumer items.

There are about 300 white mercenaries in the East Suriname area. This was disclosed to the daily DE WARE TIJD by a spokesperson for the jungle commando led by Ronny Brunswijk. The mercenaries form part of the Brunswijk gang which was seen last week in the vicinity of the bauxite town of Moengo in the Marowijne District. According to the spokesperson of the terrorist gang, they were in the area because of the (?extended) attacks by the Tucayana Amazon Indians in areas where the jungle commando and the Union for Liberation and Democracy are operating.

Last week, the Tucayanas have stated in a letter to President Ramsewak Shankar that they will launch an attack if the jungle commando and the Union for Democracy and Liberation don't get out of the areas they occupy. In the meantime, the Tucayanas have reportedly told the Suriname news agency that they are holding three boats, formally held by the jungle commando and the Union for Liberation and Democracy. However, according to the leader of the jungle commando, Ronny Brunswijk, these boats never existed and also no Tucayanas (?are) in the areas in question.

Bouterse Optimistic About Talks With Brunswijk

FL2711214689 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Army Commander Desi Bouterse has described the discussion with terrorist leader Ronny Brunswijk as being positive and expressed optimism about future negotiations.

Bouterse and Brunswijk have last week Tuesday held a 2-hour discussion on a plantation on the Commewijne River. The plantation lies about 50 km northeast of Paramaribo. According to the Army commander, the first discussion with Brunswijk was of an (?exploring) nature. He did not elaborate on the content of the discussion. Bouterse, however, is of the opinion that in future negotiations of peace the traditional authority (?structures) in the interior and the different tribal customs should be considered. Gang leader Brunswijk also expressed optimism about the future discussions.

The chairman of the military authority has last Friday reported to President Ramsewak Shankar about his meeting with Brunswijk. According to Bouterse, the second meeting will take place before the end of this year.